

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DATE 11-11-2011 BY 60322
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

WFO
FEDERAL BUREAU

OF INVESTIGATION

62-589

William Randolph Hearst



The suspect is taken to a secret arraignment.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-6

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D1

173-135-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>BIP</i>	FILED <i>BIP</i>
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
<i>Coghlan</i>	

Other Victims

Los Angeles police identified these other persons as victims of the shooting:

Weisel, 30, suffered a bullet wound in the left side near the abdomen. His address was listed as 2700 Upton Street NW.

Ira Goldstein, 19, of Los Angeles, an employee of Continental News Service at Sherman Oaks, Calif., who was shot in the left hip.

Elizabeth Evans of Saugus, Calif., who was to undergo surgery at Huntington Memorial Hospital for the removal of a bullet imbedded in her skull at the hairline. The bullet did not penetrate her skull.

Irwin Stroll, 17, of Los Angeles, who was wounded in the left shin. He was treated at a hospital and released.

Another person, 43-year-old Paul Schrade, received a skull fracture from a bullet which lodged in his brain. He was listed in good condition at Kaiser Hospital.

Patrick Thornton of Los Angeles suffered a three-inch cut on the scalp when he was hit by a camera. Further details on his injury was not immediately available.

Outside the hospital where Kennedy was being treated, a Negro woman was leading a song to the words, "Is Death

Enough for Me?" A few in the neighborhood crowd looking on at the greasy floor amid empty soft drink bottles and dirty dishes.

The hospital itself was bathed in lights from television cameras and trucks parked directly across the street. Two other spotlights, on top of the hospital, added an even more garish appearance to the night street scene.

Crowds in front of the hospital were cordoned off to permit only newsmen into the immediate area, but through the darkness faces of patients could be seen looking down on the crowd from within the hospital.

Conspiracy Doubted

At police headquarters, authorities tended to discount the possibility that there was a conspiracy involved in the shooting.

Police Chief Reddin told a news conference: "As near as we can tell, there's only one person involved."

In Washington, Attorney General Ramsey Clark said there is "no evidence of a conspiracy at this moment."

Chief Reddin said police were holding the weapon, a .22 caliber pistol from which all eight shots had been fired.

When asked whether newsmen could take photographs of the suspect, one of Reddin's assistants said: "After Dallas, nobody is going to get within a thousand feet of him."

Lee Harvey Oswald, accused assassin of President John Kennedy 4½ years ago in Dallas, was killed by the late Jack Ruby when police were moving Oswald through a crowd at a police station.

Shot in Kitchen

Cheers were still rocking the ballroom as Kennedy was gunned down shortly after stepping down from the speakers stand where he had addressed a joyous throng celebrating his victory over Sen. McCarthy in California and his win over McCarthy and a convention delegate slate pledged President Johnson in South Dakota.

The shooting took place shortly after midnight in a kitchen hallway in the Ambassador Ho-

"My God, my God," people shouted as the senator fell to the

Ballroom Jammed

Kennedy was surrounded by aides and supporters and was on his way to a nearby press room to talk to reporters when he was shot. He had to pass from the ballroom through part of the kitchen to get to the pressroom because the main entrance to the ballroom was jammed with jubilant supporters.

Reporters heard several reports that sounded something like balloons bursting. But they came in such rapid succession that newsmen waiting for him thought it might be gunfire.

As reporters burst through the doors leading to the kitchen, the narrow hallway was jammed with seething humanity and shouts for doctors and police.

The gunman was smothered under about a dozen men some

Five Shots Fired

Eugene Cesar, a 26-year old special security officer, described the shooting this way:

"I was holding his arm. We were coming through the crowd. The senator reached out to shake hands with someone in the direction where the gunman was standing.

"When he reached out, this man — a short man — held his arm up high over the senator's aides who were in front of him. He fired five shots.

"I fell back and pulled the senator with me. He slumped to the floor on his back. I was off balance and fell down and when I looked up about 10 people already had grabbed the assailant. They started clubbing and beating and kicking the guy. I turned around to the senator and saw there was blood on the right side of his head."

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-6

THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Roghan DEC

LATEST TV INFORMATION

Due to the shooting of Sen. Kennedy regular programming may be preempted without notice during the day. This may include the Senators baseball game tonight.

of whom were kicking and beating him. The hand holding the revolver was the only part of the gunman reporters could see at first.

"Don't kill him, don't kill him," people kept shouting as the man struggled to get away but was kept pinned down by the huge bulk of lineman Grier. Another of those who captured the assailant was Rafer Johnson, a decathlon champion who also had been involved in the Kennedy campaign and who moments before had been on the speaker's stand with Kennedy.

Grier Grabs Gun

Grier grabbed the gunman's arm and beat it on a steam table and finally was able to wrench the gun from his hand.

A few feet away, Kennedy was lying on his back on the cement floor. His shirt had been stripped almost off and Mrs. Kennedy was stroking his head and his chest. There was blood on the senator's head and a pool of blood was on the floor beside his head.

Just beyond the senator Schrader also lay on his back with his arm folded over his chest. Someone was fanning him.

The scene was complete pandemonium with aides, supporters, special security officers, waiters, kitchen help and others shouting and trying to force their way through the crowd.

It was a narrow hallway lined with steamtables that were not in use, trashcans full of empty soft drink bottles, a big pan of silverware and a stack of waiter's trays that finally were knocked askew in the commotion.

No one seemed to know how the gunman got in the kitchen. Persons in the ballroom and the adjoining areas were supposed to have special passes to get in.

Juan Perez, a kitchen helper, said he was standing across the steamtable from the gunman be-

DODD URGES LAW FOR REGISTERING OF ALL FIREARMS

Sen. Thomas J. Dodd, D-Conn., called today for "compulsory registration" of all guns—a measure far stronger than the mild restrictions on guns in the Senate-passed anti-crime bill.

"No words can express my shock and horror—yes and my shame, that America should again be the scene of so vile and senseless a crime," he said of the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Pious condolences over the assassination of an American president or a Negro leader or over the attempted assassination of Sen. Kennedy will no longer suffice. If our country is not to be regarded by the rest of the world as a nation of assassins, we must take the most energetic action to put an end to the conditions that today make America a land of murder and violence.

"I think the time has come... (to) make registration of all guns compulsory."

fore Kennedy came into the kitchen.

"He asked three or four times: 'Is Kennedy coming through here?'" Perez said.

Joseph Jones, a waiter, said he saw the suspect, too, and that he was shuffling some sketches on top of the steamtable.

Earl Williman told reporters he saw the man with the gun in his hand. Williman, who was among those surrounding Kennedy, said he ran around the security guards and helped pin the gunman.

The suspect was reported to have said: "I did it for my country" after the shooting. He was pinned down on the steamtable for about 20 minutes before police armed with shotguns came and took him into custody.

It was more than 15 minutes before rescue squadmen arrived and removed Kennedy to Central Receiving Hospital for emergency treatment. About 1 a.m. he was taken to Good Samaritan.

Wounds Described

Kennedy was receiving a solution, described as detrane, in one arm and blood in the other as he was taken from Central Receiving. There also were tubes in his nose and an oxygen mask over his mouth.

At the hotel, the scene was one of grief. The celebrants of a few hours earlier were huddled around television sets trying to find out the senator's condition. Many of them were crying and many knelt on the red carpeted floors and prayed.

Lisa Urso, a young girl dressed in a red and white Kennedy Girl uniform, sobbed uncontrollably as she sat on a chair in the press room.

"Why couldn't it have been

me, I was standing right behind him?" she kept saying over and over.

Held Rosary

One man who said he was a Catholic told reporters he said prayers over Kennedy while he was lying on the kitchen floor. He said he had a rosary and that Kennedy "took the rosary and my hands. The blood was coming from his head and ears."

At Central Receiving Hospital a priest administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-6

THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135

As the word of the shooting passed out to the crowd, there were cries and moans and curses.

"This country isn't safe," one person shouted.

"Oh, no," said a young boy who then fell to the floor.

"They don't understand," another kept saying.

"What kind of a country is this," another said.

In the kitchen, hotel employees scrubbed away the blood.

Norbert Schlei, a former assistant attorney general when Kennedy headed the department of Justice, was standing there. Someone came up and demanded to know why there was not more security for the senator.

Little Security

Schlei, who has been working for Kennedy in the campaign, said: "There has been very little security in the campaign. He's been through mob scenes like this 50 times."

Hugh McDonald, a young Kennedy press aide, stumbled around the press room in a daze. In his hands were Sen. Kennedy's shoes. McDonald was sobbing. He sat down in a chair and put his head on a table. Then he got up and went back to the kitchen and sat down with the shoes clutched in his arms. Later he went to the hospital, still sobbing, with the shoes still in his hands.

Mrs. Edna Weisel of Greenbelt, Md., mother of the wounded ABC executive, left early today to join her son in Los Angeles. He is a bachelor.

Before joining the ABC network in 1961, Weisel was an assistant director, assistant to the promotion director, and film editor-cameraman at Washington's WMAL television station. He became associate director of the ABC news bureau in 1963.

Weisel is a native of Washington and a 1959 graduate of American University.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-6

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135



—Associated Press

Football player Roosevelt Grier (foreground) grabs suspect's arm.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-6

— THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

— THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

— WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Cashlan



Elizabeth Evans of Saugus, Calif., holds handkerchief to her forehead grazed by bullet.

—Associated Press

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-6

— THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

— THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

— WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-4

SEARCHED <i>B</i>	INDEXED <i>B</i>
SERIALIZED <i>B</i>	FILED <i>B</i>
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coylan DEC



-Associated Press

UAW official Paul Schrade, 43, lies with his head resting on a Kennedy campaign hat after being wounded.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE _____

____ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

____ THE SUNDAY STAR

SEARCHED <u>135</u>	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
<i>Coghlan</i>	

Exhaustive Probe Under Way

By DANA BULLEN
Star Staff Writer

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said today that an exhaustive investigation has been launched to uncover every aspect of the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. "Every lead will be followed, no stone will be left unturned," Clark told a press conference in the Justice Department office occupied by Kennedy when he was attorney general.

On the basis of the information so far available, Clark said, there appeared to be no evidence of a conspiracy. The attorney general, however, made it clear that it was impossible at this point to predict what facts investigation of the shooting would disclose.

Wirephoto Prints Studied

Wirephoto fingerprints of a suspect apprehended at the scene of the shooting were being scrutinized pending receipt of actual fingerprints being flown to Washington from California. Noting the difficulty of making precise comparison of wirephoto fingerprints, Clark said no identification of the prints had been made so far.

In opening remarks at his press conference, Clark expressed hope that Kennedy will make a "full, speedy recovery."

"It seems incredible that another such profound tragedy strikes the Kennedy family that already has suffered so much," he said.

FBI in Investigation

Clark, recalling his own service with Kennedy while the senator was attorney general, said Kennedy had "served justice . . .

and all of the people of this nation . . . with distinction."

Clark said the FBI is working with Los Angeles police to make "a full and thorough investigation of every aspect of this case."

He said authority for federal participation in the investigation is contained in sections of the 1968 Civil Rights Act providing protection for political activity and in the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One of the first concerns of police today was to avoid any action that might interfere with successful prosecution of the suspect.

Two immediate concerns were to see that evidence would not be rendered legally unusable and that proceedings would not create prejudicial publicity problems associated with the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Any statements that might be obtained from the suspect would have to comply with standards announced in the Supreme Court's 1966 Miranda decision, for example.

In this controversial ruling, the high court held that a confession may not be used in evidence against a defendant unless he was effectively advised of his constitutional rights.

Bar Report Recalled

Among these, the tribunal held, are the right to remain silent, to have counsel and to be afforded free counsel if unable to pay for a lawyer.

With regard to press coverage, police appeared certain to try to avoid a repetition of practices that many experts felt could have made it impossible for Lee Harvey Oswald to secure a fair trial following the assassination of President Kennedy.

The American Bar Association, in the wake of press criticism contained in the Warren Commission Report, several months ago approved standards aimed at limiting the information that police and lawyers might release in criminal cases.

Among the items that the ABA said should be withheld were the defendant's prior criminal record, his statements to police, the name and expected testimony of any witness and the result of laboratory tests.

State Charge Reported Filed

At least initially, it appeared that the main investigation into the attack on Sen. Kennedy would be handled by Los Angeles police.

A state charge of assault with intent to commit murder reportedly was filed against the man taken into custody. Murder and attempted murder traditionally have been state rather than federal offenses.

Although Congress added attempts on the life of a president or president-elect to the list of federal crimes following the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, sources said United States senators are not among those federal officials who long have been covered by similar federal statutes.

The steps expected to be followed in the present investigation would be the same as in any routine criminal case.

It appeared likely that investigators would take great care to maintain security around the suspect to prevent an attempt on the man's life.

Everyone participating in the investigation is keenly aware of the danger of a parallel to the events of five years ago when

Oswald was shot to death by Jack Ruby. He was in custody.

Under traditional legal principles in the United States, a suspect is considered innocent until he has been proven guilty in a court of law.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-14

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan

5 Others Shot In Los Angeles; Suspect Held

By PAUL HOPE
Star Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot in the head early today and remained "extremely critical" after a team of six neurosurgeons removed most of a .22-caliber bullet from his brain in a three-hour, 40-minute operation at Good Samaritan Hospital here.

The next 12 to 36 hours—that is, sometime between mid-morning today and tomorrow night—will be "a very critical period," Kennedy's press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz, announced after the senator was transferred from the operating room to an intensive care unit.

Meanwhile, a young man held by police here as the suspect in the shooting was identified as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 23, of Pasadena. He was charged with six counts of assault with intent to commit murder.

The shooting took place in a kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel, a few minutes after Kennedy left a celebration marking his victory in the California Democratic preferential primary.

Kennedy's attacker also wounded at least five other persons. Among these was a Washington man—William Weisel, associate director of the American Broadcasting Corp.'s Washington news bureau. Weisel was reported to be in "good shape" after surgery.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-1

— THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X — THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

— THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

— WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D 3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI — WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan REC

Dr. Henry Cuneo of the University of Southern California Medical School, one of the surgical team who operated on Kennedy, was quoted today as saying that it was unlikely that the senator "will be able to recover fully . . . and (his condition) makes it doubtful that he could live."

This remark, and other dire conclusions supposedly drawn by Cuneo, were reported in an NBC television interview by Dr. Lawrence Pool, who said he had talked with Cuneo. Pool is chief of neurosurgery at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

Cuneo was quoted as saying that several major arteries were severed and Kennedy's brain suffered extensive loss of blood and oxygen, as well as several clots. He also suffered injuries to the spinal cord, Dr. Pool said.

Pool himself concluded that "the outcome may be extremely tragic." He attributed this to the potential damage done to Kennedy's "mid-brain" and the "stem" that connects the brain "to all the rest of the body" and influences such functions as arm and leg movement, eye and face movements, blood pressure, breathing and even the heart rate.

Besides the major head wound, Kennedy suffered

Continued on Page A-6, Col. 1.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-1

____ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

____ THE SUNDAY STAR

____ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

____ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135

Kennedy 'Extremely Critical' Bullet in Brain Removed

two other wounds—apparently not serious—in the left shoulder and one in the forehead. The bullet which inflicted the shoulder injury is lodged "somewhere in the back of his neck," but "this is not regarded as a major problem," Mankiewicz told newsmen outside the hospital.

Here is the key part of the medical bulletin read by the New York senator's press aide:

"His (Kennedy's) condition is described as extremely critical. The vital signs remain about as they were except that he is now breathing on his own, where he was not prior to surgery, although he now has the assistance of a resuscitator.

"All but one fragment of the bullet has been removed from the head injury. There is still one bullet apparently somewhere in the back of his neck, although this is not regarded as a major problem.

"He lost a considerable amount of blood as a result of the bullet which entered and passed through the mastoid bone on the right side of his head, and some of the fragments of the bullet and of the bone went toward the brain stem.

"There may have been an impairment of the blood supply to the mid-brain, which doctors explained as controlling or at least governing certain of the vital signs—pulse, heart, eye track, level of consciousness — although not directly the thinking processes.

"Doctors say that the next 12 to 36 hours will be a very critical period."

Early in the afternoon, a brief hospital bulletin said Kennedy's condition remain unchanged — "extremely critical."

Mankiewicz declined to answer questions about further medical details, except to say that no further surgery was not planned. He also refused to answer questions about the condition of the senator's wife, Ethel, at the moment.

Mrs. Kennedy at Hospital

Mrs. Kennedy was with the senator in the hospital along with his brother, Sen. Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy, and other members of the family.

Mrs. Kennedy was close behind her husband when he was shot, and she accompanied him in an ambulance to the hospital.

When the senator was first taken into an emergency room at Central Receiving Hospital, attending doctors thought he was "practically dead," it was reported. They massaged his heart, externally, and gave him adrenalin. They were preparing to inject adrenalin directly into the heart when they detected a heartbeat with a stethoscope.

Mrs. Kennedy was permitted to listen through the instrument to hear the heartbeat, the doctors said.

Kennedy went into surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital at about 3:12 a.m. (6:12 a.m. Washington time) after being moved there from Central Receiving Hospital.

The actual surgery was performed by Drs. Cuneo, Maxwell Ambler of the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School and Nat Downes Reid of the University of Southern California Medical School. In addition, Dr. James Poppen of the Lahey Clinic in Boston was flown here to assist on the case. He came in a plane made available by Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty announced the identification of suspect.

Yorty and Police Chief Thomas Reddin said identification was made by tracing the ownership of the murder weapon.

Yorty and Reddin said Sirhan was identified by a brother, Munir (Joe) Sirhan, who lives at the same Pasadena address.

Yorty said the brother "is talking with us" but he did not disclose what he was saying.

Yorty said authorities do not know what nationality the suspect is, but that he apparently lived in Jerusalem at one time.

A police photo of the suspect showed a man with dark curly hair, dark complexion, pocked face and possible scars on the forehead. He had a large nose, full lips, square chin and bushy eyebrows. He wore a white shirt, open at the neck, and a medium dark windbreaker.

Authorities said the man had uttered only one word "yes" during their first encounter with him. It was several hours before the identification was made. Police said Sirhan had been advised of his rights including his right to have a lawyer before being questioned. He declined a lawyer's services at that point, police said.

173-135

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-6

THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Mayor Releases Suspect's Name

By a Star Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES—Sirhan B. Shara Sirhan, 23, of Pasadena, Calif., was charged today with shooting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Mayor Sam Yorty told a news conference here.

Yorty said identification of the suspect was made by tracing ownership of the .22-caliber pistol used in the shooting.

The mayor, joined by Police Chief Thomas Reddin, said the suspect was identified by brother, Munir (Joe) Sirhan, who lives at the same address in Pasadena.

The brother "is talking with us," Yorty said, but the mayor did not disclose what the man was saying.

Yorty said authorities do not know what nationality the suspect is, but he apparently lived in Jerusalem at one time.

Four \$100 bills were found on the man, "with which he was planning on leaving if he could get away," the mayor said.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-1

____ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

____ THE SUNDAY STAR

____ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

____ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-175-Sub D 4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>BTR</u>	FILED <u>BTR</u>
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
<u>Boyle</u> <u>REC</u>	

'He Lay There Struck Down'

Witness Tells Of Blood, Anger

By ROBERT HEALY

Boston Globe Political Editor
Copyright, Globe Newspaper Company

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In that narrow, darkened corridor, there was terror, profanity, tears, blood and the violence of a nation.

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy of New York had walked down the same back corridor in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel just 15 minutes before. He was in a good mood. He had won California. And he came over to shake my hand. I congratulated him and we talked about his big win.

Now, I was standing on a steel serving table directly over the same place where we had shaken hands. He lay there struck down by bullets. His right hand held a bleeding side. His face was white. His eyes were open. His lips moved just slightly. He did not cry.

Against the steel serving table, Roosevelt Grier, the huge Negro lineman for the Los Angeles Rams, had the assailant pinned. He held tight to the man's right wrist and he mashed it against the side of



—United Press International

The suspect as he was taken from hotel.

the serving table. He tried to free the gun from his hand. There was this great man, towering over the small man and with all his strength it took him more than a minute to take that gun.

Another man, atop the table,

was trying to kick the gunman in the face. "Bastard . . . kill him," he shouted. And he would have.

Kennedy had waited until his victory was secure in the California primary before he came

See EYEWITNESS Page A-21

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-1

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

C. J. [Signature]

'Get Back and Give Him Air'

Continued From Page A-1
down to talk to his workers. There was a huge crowd in the ballroom. They had waited for several hours.

About 12:15 a.m. (3:15 EDT) the senator's press aides entered the working press room adjoining the ballroom. They said Kennedy would come in a matter of minutes to thank his workers and make a statement for television.

A big crowd filled the lobby outside, and it was decided it would be easier to bring the candidate through the kitchen corridor into the ballroom.

Then the senator came. He had been in Malibu during the day and picked up a fresh sun tan. His press aide, Richard Drayne, preceded him. There were few people in the corridor—some kitchen workers and some television cameramen forwarned of his arrival.

Kennedy began his speech with a remark about the shutout victory that Don Drysdale had just pitched for the Los Angeles Dodgers. It went over big.

I listened to him speak for a few minutes, then walked into the press room, because you could not hear the senator in the roar of the crowd. The reception was better on the television in the press room.

Kennedy had said that after his speech he would meet with a small group of reporters in the working press room.

A few seconds before he ended a doctor . . . "Get back and give him air." They swore and cursed each other.

The Moment

I was only a few feet inside the corridor, walking toward Kennedy, when I saw his head bobbing in the crowd. We were 25 or 30 feet apart. The assailant was between us.

Then there were the shots.

They said there were eight of them. Their flash lit up the corridor. I remember thinking there were about five. They came quickly and I wasn't counting.

Someone said they were firecrackers. There had been some of that in the rally in San Francisco's Chinatown Monday.

But there was no mistake about this. Someone had been shot.

I ran down the corridor. People bunched in front of me and I jumped on the steel serving table, past the assailant beneath me on my left, and saw Robert Kennedy on the floor in the gray light.

People were screaming: "Get

back and give him air." They swore and cursed each other. For a few seconds I did not notice the struggle directly beneath me. Then I looked down and saw the gun. Grier held the assailant and was attempting to take the gun from his hand. The man next to me was shouting, "Kill him!"

When Grier finally shook the gun from the assailant's hand, a man next to me picked it up. Bill Barry and Rafer Johnson, Kennedy's other two bodyguards, scrambled to get the weapon—they were afraid the man would kill the gunman.

Then there was a struggle to hold the assailant. They did not

want to let him go and Ros Grier did not want him killed and said so. They picked the assailant up by the legs and hauled him away from Kennedy.

A Reluctance

There was turmoil in the ballroom, Kennedy's brother-in-law, Stephen Smith, went to the stage and asked the people to clear the room. The assailant was still in the corridor behind the stage, and so was Kennedy. A doctor came in and attended him.

It seemed that the special officers assigned to the party were reluctant to act. They kept away from the assassin and it seemed a long time before they started to take any one of the four persons who were shot to the hospital.

DATE 6/5/68

PAGE A-21

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Burial in Arlington Cemetery Saturday

RFK Succumbs to Assassin's Bullet

LOS ANGELES, June 6 (UPI) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died early today from massive brain injuries inflicted by an assassin's bullet.

At his hospital bedside were his wife Ethel, mother of his 10 children who is expecting an 11th in November, and Jacqueline Kennedy, widow of his slain brother, President John F. Kennedy. Three of the Kennedy's eldest children were flown here from their Virginia home in a presidential jet, reaching the hospital about two hours before their father died.

Sen. Kennedy, 42, was the third of four brothers of the ill-starred family to die a violent death. His death left only the youngest brother, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, to carry the political banner of the Kennedy clan.

President Johnson, proclaiming this "a time of tragedy and loss," declared Sunday a national day of mourning for the slain senator.

ARLINGTON BU

Pierre Salinger announced the body of Sen. Kennedy would be flown today to New York City to lie in state in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The body will be taken during the week-end to Washington for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Mr. Salinger said plans still were being formulated but added "I suspect the Senator will be buried in the plot of the late President John F. Kennedy."

Mr. Salinger said the Saturday mass was planned for 10 a.m. The train carrying the Senator's body to Arlington would leave New York City at 12:30 p.m.

The train's arrival in Washington was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. with burial an hour later in Arlington, he said.

Death came to the New York Senator at 1:44 a.m. PDT (4:44 in Washington) 25 hours after he was cut down by an assassin's bullets after jubilantly proclaiming victory in the California Democratic Primary. That triumph rocketed his political star to a powerful challenging position for the Presidency, an office his older brother Jack relinquished at the head of an assassin in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

Sen. Kennedy, suffering irreparable brain damage from a .22 caliber bullet that lodged in his midbrain, lapsed into a peaceful coma shortly after being felled. He never regained consciousness thru the nearly four hour operation in which a team of skilled neurosurgeons at Good Samaritan Hospital meticulously picked all but a tiny fragment of the bullet from his brain.

"He was not able to build back up tissue after the trauma of last night and the surgery this morning," said Frank Mankiewicz, Sen. Kennedy's Press Secretary who made the official announcement.

Sen. Kennedy's son Joseph, 16, was at his bedside when he died. Also with the Senator was Msgr. William McCormack of St. Patrick's Cathedral; his brother Edward; his sisters, Mrs. Stephen Smith and Patricia Lawford; and his brother-in-law and campaign manager, Stephen Smith.

Deputy Police Chief Noel McQuown of the Los

Angeles Police Department, said he assumed charges against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant accused of the shooting, would be changed to murder.

The Kennedy clan, for whom tragedy has struck repeatedly, rallied around the Senator's wife, Ethel.

Mrs. Kennedy was "amazingly calm" and "extremely brave," according to Msgr. Joseph J. Truxaw, who said mass and served communion in the Good Samaritan Hospital chapel for members of the family.

She slept fitfully in a room near the fifth floor intensive care unit where Sen. Kennedy was treated.

Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy flew from New York in a private jet to be with her fallen brother-in-law. She was accompanied by Prince Stanislas Radziwill, husband of her sister, Lee.

Another visitor at the hospital when Mrs. Kennedy arrived was Mrs. Coretta King, the widow of assassinated Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King.

Seventeen hours after the 42-year-old Sen. Kennedy entered the hospital, doctors said they were concerned over his failure to show improvement in his "extremely critical condition."

The second medical bulletin noted that the "results of a series of tests undertaken by the medical team are inconclusive and do not show any appreciable improvement in Sen. Kennedy's condition."

DATE 6/6/68

PAGE 2

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

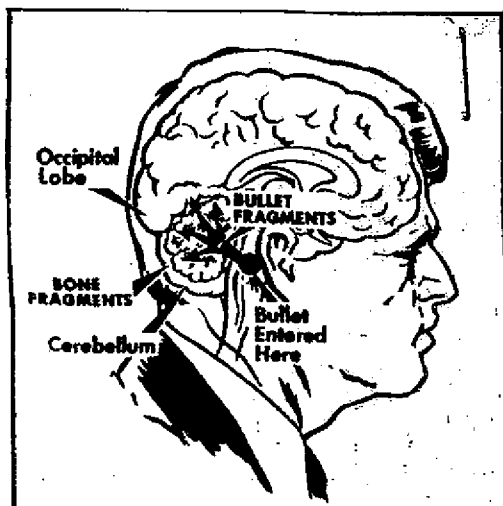
WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 17 1968
FBI — WASH. F. O.

173-135-Sub D G



Youngsters wearing "Pray for Bobby" placards stood outside Los Angeles' Good Samaritan Hospital yesterday.



—UPI Photo—

The diagram illustrates how one of the assassin's bullet penetrated the brain of Sen. Kennedy. After entering the right mastoid bone, fragmented and particles entered the cerebellum and occipital lobe. All but one fragment were removed by surgery. Other bullets grazed his forehead and struck his neck.

"Life forces — pulse, blood pressure, heart — remain good," the bulletin said.

The New York Senator was assisted in his breathing by a resuscitator, altho doctors said he showed the ability to breathe without help.

The bullet, which entered the right side of Sen. Kennedy's head just behind the ear, severed several major arteries, caused extensive loss of blood and oxygen and caused several blood clots to form.

Dr. Henry Cuneo, who assisted in the operation, said Sen. Kennedy also suffered injuries to the spinal cord, but there was no hospital confirmation of rumors he was paralyzed.

Five other persons were injured in the shooting only minutes after Sen. Kennedy spoke to an overjoyed crowd of well-wishers celebrating his victory in the California primary election. The wounded, all in satisfactory condition today, were standing near the candidate.

They were: Paul Schrade, a Steelworkers Union official, with a scalp wound; William Weisel, of 2700 Upston-st nw, an ABC-TV newsman, with a bullet in the abdomen; Ira Goldstein, 19, a radio newsman, wounded in the back and leg; Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, with a scalp wound; and Irwin Stroll, 17, wounded in the leg.

DATE 6/6/68

PAGE 2

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

☒ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Kennedy McLean Home Is Heavily Guarded

The homes of Sens. Robert F. Kennedy and Edward M. Kennedy in McLean are heavily guarded today by both U.S. marshals and Fairfax County police.

The seven youngest children of Sen. and Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy were inside their home this morning, in the care of former astronaut John Glenn and his wife, who flew back with them yesterday from Los Angeles. The secretaries of both senators arrived at Robert Kennedy's home Hickory Hill, shortly after 6 a.m. Mrs. Gertrude Carbin, who told a marshal "Ethel is my godmother" arrived about 6:30 and was allowed in.

DATE 6/6/68

PAGE 10

— THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

— THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

☒ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

— WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Coghtlan CEC

SEARCHED <u>22</u>	INDEXED <u>22</u>
SERIALIZED <u>22</u>	FILED <u>22</u>
JUN 17 1968	
FBI — WASH. F. O.	

173-135-Sub D 7

A-8 **Yorty Claims Red Groups
Inflamed Assassin**

DATE 6/7/68

PAGE A-8

☒ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☐ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Coughlan Rev
173-135-Sub D 8

173-135

SEARCHED <i>B22</i>	INDEXED <i>B22</i>
SERIALIZED <i>B22</i>	FILED <i>B22</i>
JUN 17 1968	
FBI — WASH. F. O.	

By William Chapinan
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 6—

Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, disregarding legal advice to cease talking publicly about the case, claimed today that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassin had been a Communist sympathizer and was inflamed by Communist and pro-Arab agitation.

"Evil Communist organizations played a part in inflaming the assassination of Kennedy," Yorty declared in a press conference.

His public statements today and yesterday provoked rising controversy and fears that his comments would damage the case against the 24-year-old suspect, Sirhan B. Sirhan.

California Attorney General Thomas Lynch cautioned Yorty to limit the information he divulges. He also praised the Los Angeles Police Department for its discretion in discussing the suspect.

Lynch warned that Yorty's comments could result in certain evidence being ruled inadmissible at Sirhan's trial.

Yorty acknowledged Lynch had criticized him during a telephone conversation, but added: "I told him that I'm in a situation where I have to make a judgment about the public's right to know."

Yorty stirred the controversy yesterday by disclosing some contents of two notebooks found by police in Sirhan's home. According to Yorty, one notation said that "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968"—the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war.

Police and other law officials were visibly disturbed today at Yorty's comments, fearing they would raise a difficult and unnecessary legal

Sirhan, a native of Jordan, came to this country 11 years ago but never has applied for U.S. citizenship. He has been described by friends as bitterly opposed to the State of Israel, and was said to be critical of Mr. Kennedy's support of Israel's case against the Arab countries.

Yorty got Sirhan's notebooks from officers at the Rampart Police Station Wednesday before Police Chief Thomas Reddin had seen them. Reddin, who declined to appear with the Mayor at the press conference

this morning, has said the release of such information could be prejudicial and could damage the case against Sirhan.

In another development, police put out a bulletin seeking information on a woman in a white polka dot dress who, according to a witness, left the scene of Wednesday's shooting shouting, "We shot him!"

One of Mr. Kennedy's campaign workers, Sandy Serrano, 20, said she heard the cry and asked who had been shot. "We shot Kennedy," she said the woman called back.

[Some other eyewitnesses at the hotel told of seeing the suspect with a girl in a white dress earlier in the evening; the Los Angeles Times reported. Some said there was a third person, a dark young man, with them.]

[A spokesman at police headquarters stressed, however, that "we don't think it was a conspiracy at this time."

"I would calculate there must have been 20 women there with polka dot dresses," he said. But, he added "we are not going to throw anything into the wastebasket."]

hurdle in what seemed to them an open-and-shut case. After Yorty continued divulging information on the suspect, a police official declined to comment, saying, "We've got to save something—at least something—for the jury."

The national legal profession has displayed mounting concern over the pre-trial release of information on a criminal suspect, and Los Angeles police have been careful to limit their comments to a few bare facts on Sirhan.

The American Bar Association's new rules now warn prosecutors to release only such essential information as a suspect's name, the charges against him, and limited amount of identification material. Reddin generally has followed that rule.

The most celebrated case involving pretrial publicity was when the Supreme Court ordered a retrial for Dr. Samuel Sheppard, the Cleveland physician convicted of murdering his wife. The publicity in Cleveland newspapers prejudiced the Sheppard jury, the Court held. Sheppard was acquitted in his retrial. Under questioning at his press conference, Yorty

DATE 6/7/68

PAGE A-8

✓ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

...ned the notebooks showed that Sirhan was a "Communist sympathizer." But the Mayor acknowledged he had no proof the suspect had been affiliated with any sort of subversive organization.

Al Wirin, chief counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, said today that Sirhan has denied affiliation with any Communist-oriented organizations. Wirin has interviewed him twice in the Los Angeles County jail while offering him legal aid.

Police said Sirhan has not been traced to any subversive organization.

Yorty also revived a prominent local rumor in saying that Sirhan's car once was spotted parked near a building where the local W.E.B. DuBois Club was holding a meeting. The DuBois clubs have been cited as subversive by the U.S. Attorney General's office.

Yesterday, Chief Reddin said that a car to which Sirhan once "had access" was spotted near the building on a night when the club was meeting.

Yorty, under questioning by reporters, agreed that it is not known whether the car was Sirhan's. The Mayor had no evidence that the suspect was using the car that night or whether he was in the building. "We have no evidence placing him at the meeting," Yorty said.

Yorty contended that the notebooks contained writings showing that Sirhan was sympathetic to communism, "whether Russian or Chinese."

Asked how he thought Sirhan could have been "inflamed" by both Arab nationalism and communism, Yorty replied, "Both the Communists and Arabs are anti-Israel." He also cited reports of Union.

With the exception of Yorty's remarks, civil libertarians here have been generally complimentary of the police work in Sirhan's case. He was carefully advised of his legal rights and was permitted to be interviewed by the ACLU although he had said he did not want a lawyer, ACLU attorneys said today.

However, the ACLU has raised a question about the procedure used by police in searching the Pasadena home

where Sirhan lived with his mother and two brothers. No search warrant was obtained, the ACLU maintained.

Police officials said no warrant is needed if someone in the family gave permission for the search and said permission had been received from the suspect's brother, Abel.

Reddin has said yesterday that a warrant would be obtained in this extraordinary case, regardless of whether permission was obtained in advance.

Sirhan remained in the Los Angeles County jail today. He has been scheduled to appear at a pre-trial hearing Monday morning.

However, the County grand jury has agreed to hear evidence in the case Friday morning. District Attorney Evelle J. Younger said he will seek a murder indictment. He will call 17 witnesses and present "every bit of evidence on the autopsy," he said.

The suspect is being held under \$250,000 bond and is being represented by a County public defender, Richard Buckley. The ACLU was making arrangements to retain a private attorney. The ACLU also arranged police protection for Sirhan's family.

Sirhan is being held in a remote, windowless 9-by-12-foot cell in the jail's medical ward. He is guarded constantly by six deputies — one in the cell, one watching through a porthole and four patrolling the corridor outside.

Sheriff Peter Pitchess said eight to 12 telephone callers have threatened to kill Sirhan or his guards.

Sirhan is under treatment for a broken left index finger

and a sprained left arm, both suffered, Pitchess said, in the course of his arrest. He is under care of Dr. Marcus Crahan, the jail psychiatrist, who "possibly" is also giving him psychiatric examinations, Pitchess said.

Sirhan, who was told of Kennedy's death today, has access to newspapers and books and gets occasional exercise in the corridor, accompanied by two guards.

When Sirhan was arrested he had \$400 in his pocket and a key to a Chrysler automobile. Yorty has speculated this suggests the suspect may have been "thinking of leaving" the Los Angeles area after the shooting. There also was speculation the \$400 may have been a payment by someone else for the shooting.

Later it was confirmed Sirhan had recently won a court judgment from Hollywood Park race track in connection with a suit filed after he fell

from a horse while working as an exercise rider.

Police said the automobile key fit the ignition of a car that belonged to an employee in the Ambassador Hotel kitchen. But, police said, the employee was at a hospital with his wife when the shooting took place. Chief Reddin said the employee had been eliminated as a suspect. Another police official said the key may actually belong to another automobile.

Arab Students Deny Sirhan Was Member

The Organization of Arab Students in the U.S.A. and Canada denied yesterday reports that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was ever a member of the organization.

The group was established in 1952 to further Arab-American friendship and to help Arab students adjust to academic life away from home.

DATE

PAGE

The Intricate Puzzle of Sirhan Sirhan

© 1968. London Sunday Times

The indictment against him is the more shattering for its formality: that he did murder "Robert Francis Kennedy, a human being," and attempt to murder the five other victims in that hotel kitchen.

Case No A233421, the people of the State of California vs. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, "is a very special case," said the district attorney.

But is Sirhan a very special person? Was it private anguish that moved him; and, if so, what fed his hatred? Or is he linked with the numberless groups of extremists and fanatics in America or the Middle East?

Since the news reached Israel at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday that the man accused of the assassination was Jerusalem-born, the Israeli Secret Service has been trying to discover if any fanatical Arab underground movement was behind the killing. So far, agents have drawn a complete blank.

Their main lead was Sirhan's father, Bishara Salameh Sirhan, who lives in a modest home at the village of Taibeh, near Jerusalem. When the father opened up, he was asked first to identify himself and then to answer questions on his family and particularly his son Sirhan. "Why are you asking me about my son?" he asked. "You've heard the news about Senator Kennedy?"

"Yes."

"Well, the man who is accused of shooting him is your son Sirhan."

Mr. Sirhan collapsed. "He is such a good boy; he was always a good boy, all his teachers praised him," he kept on repeating when he recovered.

It is true. The family has

See SUSPECT, A4, Col. 1

when the mother became strongly drawn to the Jehovah's Witnesses. A version of events, given by people who know the family, is that after the breakup, the sect helped the mother to go to America in 1957 with Sirhan, two of his brothers and his sister.

The father apparently started divorce proceedings through a Greek Orthodox court, but stopped them some months later and decided to join his family in America. Other friends claim that the passage, also, was assisted by the Jehovah's Witnesses.

The father's present relationship with the sect is unclear. The Jehovah's Witnesses have been banned in Jordan for nine years, but they still proselytise fiercely. According to the Mukhtar of Taibeh, the father is supported by the sect—though why, is unknown.

According to Mukhtar Mu'addi, it was money from the sect that helped the father build his new ten-room stone villa in Taibeh overlooking groves of almond and olive trees—a house that must have cost around \$12,000.

All this, the father denies. But on the table in his sitting room, he has a religious tract in Arabic, "Solving the International Crisis," and this is believed locally to be published by the Jehovah's Witnesses. And in his Bible he has marked in blue pencil a passage in Exodus, Chapter 3, which the Jehovah's Witnesses consider crucial. He says he did this so that, when talking to other villagers, he can quickly find the passage giving "God's real name, the name he wants to be called by."

Background of Tension

So Sirhan comes from a background of tension, a home broken largely by disagreements over the doctrine of a somewhat fanatical sect. The Jehovah's Witnesses may not themselves be relevant; but the air of antirighteousness, insensibility from the sect, is significant.

But America took the young Sirhan. From the backstreets of Jerusalem, he was hurled into the maelstrom of Los Angeles. What happened to him? What might have warped the bright, introspective, mother-dominated boy of 12?

Menninger's classic description of paranoia says:

"A feeling of being slighted . . . favors the secret nurturing of ideas of great power . . . Such an individual may come into conflict with the law, either as a direct actionist (e.g. murder) or a petitioner (law suits), a development which he regards as the natural outcome of his great but unrecognized importance, and of the envy and malice of an indifferent world. . . . An impressive facade of reasonableness, earnestness and 'normality' may cloak this psychopathology to a disarming degree."

The Pasadena police kept a "red flag file" on Sirhan. All it meant was that if he ever got into trouble, they had a file they could pull out which listed every contact he had with the law. We have seen the file, and all it proves is that Sirhan was a boy who was quarrelsome and had been on the edge of trouble a few times without really getting into hot water.

There are no criminal charges, only a dream catalogue of trivial incidents. Twice he reported a bicycle stolen; once when he was 14 and once when he was 18. Twice there were complaints that he was causing a disturbance. The last time of March 7, 1967, year, the day he was kicked from his last job. Once he lodged a complaint himself. Puffed out at random, it equates the file of a million young men or the dossier of a case of incipient paranoia.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

DATE 6-9-68

PAGE 1

THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON AFRO AMERICAN

landed in New York on Jan. 12, 1957, with his mother, his sister Aida—who died of cancer last year—and three brothers: Sharif, Adel and Munier (the fourth, Said Allah, arrived in 1960).

The father, who joined them a few months later, stayed in New York, where he found work as a plumber, and the mother took the children to California, where she got a job as a children's nurse.

But the father stayed in America for only three years, and lived with his family in Los Angeles for only a short part of that time. He says he came back to Jordan to look after his mother, aged as far as anyone can tell about 90, who had fallen ill but refused to go to America.

According to the Mukhtar, the parents' plans for a divorce were abandoned under the children's influence and they decided on separation. That was when the father returned, first to Jerusalem and later to Taibeh. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Mary Sirhan, the mother, settled her family. She rented a white wooden bungalow in the only mixed neighborhood in Pasadena, an aging suburb of Los Angeles.

A-Grades in High School

Sirhan went to the John Muir High School, an excellent school, and did well. He had A grades, he was on the student council for his last two years—he even joined the Officer Cadet Corps. Then he went on to Pasadena City College, a distinctly second-rate institution. By all accounts he was a serious student. Here is what his contemporaries say about him:

"A taciturn individual who did not say very much . . . friendly, really pleasant, but hard to get to know . . . He was so weak and scrawny, but always so neat. The other kids came to school in sweat shirts and jeans, but Sirhan always had a clean shirt . . . He was brilliant. He was studying Russian when everyone else was studying English and Spanish . . . He was and well-mannered, but evil about him . . . He dreamed of being something big in Jordan after his studies in the university."

The details are missing, but it senses a situation where a boy who wants to make good is dragged back by bad company. For Sirhan, the bad company seems to have included at least two of his brothers—the brothers the 7-year-old Sirhan had so desperately wanted to beat.

The brother with whom Sirhan bought the gun, Munir, was well-known as "Joe" in half-a-dozen seedy Hollywood night clubs frequented by Arabs and other immigrants from the Eastern Mediterranean.

This world of the Hollywood night spots exercised its pull on Joe early: several times he ran away from school. Police thought he had been "shacking up with older chicks" and he has subsequently been up on a narcotics charge involving marijuana.

Another brother, Sharif, got into more serious trouble, according to Pasadena police. He got a year on probation for attempted murder: a lenient sentence, considering he is said to have sawed through the brakes of his girl friend's car.

Even before he left the City College, Sirhan was earning a few dollars as a groom and exercise boy at the race track at Hollywood Park. After he left, he went to work there as an exercise boy, walking horses to cool them off after training. Apparently he wanted to be a jockey, a despairing dream, for at 126 pounds and 5-foot six he was a little big.

On Sept. 25, 1966, he was thrown from a horse and injured. Later Sirhan claimed

that this fall had damaged his eyesight. His suit was settled out of court for \$2000.

Almost a year after that he seems to have been out of work. Finally, last September he got a job as delivery boy at a health food store in Pasadena. He was paid \$2 an hour. His boss, a Dutch former resistance fighter, trusted him with large amounts of money, but ultimately found him impossible to employ.

"He was a man of principle. He didn't drink," said the employer. "He didn't smoke. He always said he wouldn't. But he was emotional. He resented authority. He didn't like to be told what to do. In the end, he was a trouble maker."

was fired. It was the end of the line.

One of Los Angeles' leading psychiatrists suggested that Sirhan was an interesting case because his latent hatred of authority—a Freudian might say this had something to do with his support of his mother against his father in the long marital struggle—was reinforced by his ideological attitudes.

What are Sirhan's attitudes? How did America crystalize the emotions of the young Arab immigrant? Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles, a vehement anti-Communist, claims that Sirhan was pro-Communist, and specifically asserts that "his car, an elderly pink De

Soto, had been parked outside meetings of the DuBois Club on several occasions.

The DuBois Club has been identified by the FBI as a Communist front, but there is some doubt whether it has actually held any meetings in Los Angeles in the last three years. Mrs. Dorothy Healey, the very forthright secretary of the Communist Party here, dismisses Yorty's suggestion as "typical of an opportunist politician who wants to get his name in the news."

She said she had personally checked Sirhan's name with several of her young, left-wing friends, none of whom had heard of Sirhan. She then checked with his high school

contemporaries, all of whom said that he was strongly anti-Communist and anti-Semitic.

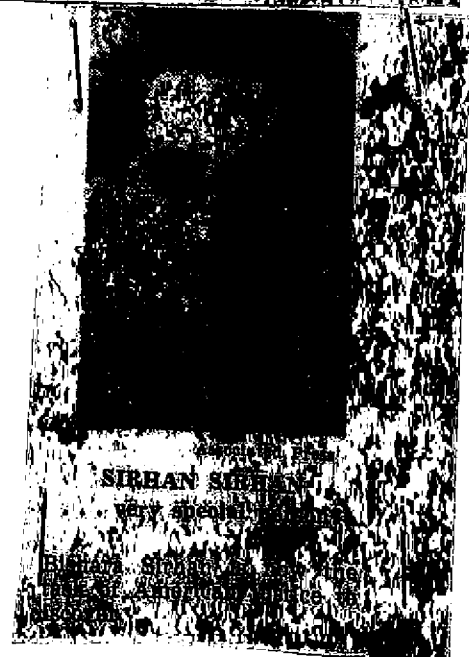
At every stage of his life in America, in fact, those who knew Sirhan remember virulent outbreaks of anti-Semitism—at school, at the race track, at the health food store.

That appears to have been America's main contribution to Sirhan's development. In America—in a world where Arabs keep their heads above the black ghetto with difficulty, while Jews are among the wealthiest communities in the world—any Arab with the faintest tendency to paranoia might have a feeling that the enemy was closing in.

Mayor Yorty blurted out and the police have confirmed, that when they searched the Sirhan family's house in Pasadena they found two ring-bad loose leaf notebooks, each with about 18 to 20 pages.

In one of these Sirhan wrote about May 17 and the police think "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5." By May 17, Robert F. Kennedy had come out strongly for the supply of arms to Israel in his primary campaign. And June 5 was the first anniversary of a humiliating six-day war which put Sirhan's family home into the power of Israel.

What happened in these last decisive days to Sirhan



Sirhan Under 24-Hour Guard, Judge Bars Case Comment

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, remained under constant surveillance yesterday as Kennedy was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The 24-year-old Jordian immigrant was kept in the bullet-proof second floor cell of the hospital section of the Los Angeles County jail where he was taken following Kennedy's shooting in the Ambassador Hotel.

An unarmed deputy was constantly in the room with him and an armed guard watched through a plastic peephole in the door.

After a brief appearance at arraignment Friday when he was formally charged with Kennedy's murder, Sirhan was whisked off under maximum police protection and under a mandatory order from Superior Court Judge Arthur A. Alarcon that no witnesses, officers, attorneys or public officials comment publicly on the case.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the suspect's mother, had been invited by A. L. Wirin, the head of the Los Angeles branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, to attend the arraignment but she did not appear.

Messages to Family

Wirin has visited Sirhan daily in his jail cell, he said, and has sent messages from Sirhan to his mother and other members of the family.

A representative of the public defender's office has been appointed to represent Sirhan in preliminary hearings but Sirhan has asked Wirin to secure the services of a top attorney for the trial.

Wirin declined to say whether any member of the family had

expressed the wish to see Sirhan or whether the accused man had asked to see his mother or any other relatives.

He said that as of yesterday he and the public defender's representatives were the only ones who had visited Sirhan.

Sirhan was not scheduled to appear in public until June 28 when a plea is to be entered on his behalf by the public defender's office.

Judge Alarcon also appointed two psychiatrists to examine the defendant and advise the defense in determining whether to enter an insanity plea.

Three Women Released

Los Angeles police questioned and quickly released three women who voluntarily appeared, each saying she believed she was the "girl in the polka dot dress" sought after the shooting early Wednesday morning.

A Kennedy volunteer worker had said such a woman ran from the hotel saying "we shot him" minutes after the senator was

fatally wounded. The police investigation was continuing on every lead but officers said privately there was no reason to believe any conspiracy existed.

The order issued by Judge Alarcon was the most far reaching edict ever issued in assuring the rights of a defendant and attempting to avoid trial prejudice, according to Los Angeles lawyers.

It said:

"It is the order of this court that no party to this action, nor any attorney connected with this case as defense counsel or as prosecutor, nor any other attorney, nor any judicial officer or employee, nor any public official, including but not limited to any chief of police nor any sheriff, nor any agent, deputy or employee of any such persons nor any grand juror, nor any witness having appeared before the grand jury in this matter, nor any person subpoenaed to testify at the trial of this matter shall release or authorize the release of any purported extra judicial statement of the defendant."

DATE 6/9/68

PAGE A-8

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D 10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan

Who's to Choose Sirhan's Lawyer?

Los Angeles, June 13 (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan, awaiting trial on charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, pored over books on occultism in his heavily-guarded jail cell while outside controversy swirled over who would represent him in court.

The 24 year-old native of Jordan was scheduled to enter a plea June 28 in the courtroom of Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon to charges he killed Sen. Kennedy and tried to kill five other persons.

Sirhan told A. L. Wirin, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, that he wanted two "big name" lawyers to defend him rather than Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield, whom the court appointed.

Mr. Wirin said "a number of attorneys" had agreed to serve without fee, but declined to name them. He also said Sirhan did not want the services of famed attorneys, Melvin Belli and F. Lee Bailey, neither of whom had volunteered.

The bearded ACLU attorney said Sirhan agreed to let the Los Angeles County Bar Association select his attorney, but the Bar Association said it had not agreed to do so and indicated it would not do so unless requested to by the court.

Mr. Wirin also said Sirhan had asked him to serve as his lawyer. But the attorney said the ACLU's interest in the case was only to see that his constitutional right to counsel was upheld.

DATE 6-13-68

PAGE 47

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

___ THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

X THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D-20 11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan Dec

WASHINGTON CLOSE-UP

An Assassin's Pathologic Trail

By JUDITH RANDAL

Lee Harvey Oswald and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, despite their apparent differences, are brothers under the skin.

What matters more than that one was born in New Orleans and the other in Jerusalem—or that one fleetingly admired Russia, while the other is fanatically pro-Arab—is their underlying psychological parallels.

Strip away the variables of heritage and education; they are largely irrelevant. Focus instead on the constants—the unrelenting blows to the spirit and marginal gratifications from society that both young men experienced from early infancy. Either man could have been the other—almost as if they had been given interchangeable names.

David Rothstein, a psychiatrist who served as consultant to the Warren Commission, has studied many men who have threatened the lives of presidents. He traces the evolution of the mind of an assassin to family situations where the father is either weak or absent and the mother has emotional disabilities that deny the child both male identity and the opportunity to mature. Most such women have severe feelings of inadequacy and rejection which they displace in some fashion and pass along to their sons.

★

This, of course, describes many youths. But with Oswald and Sirhan, the description is particularly germane.

Oswald's father died before his son's birth. Marguerite, his mother, never could admit that anything was wrong either with herself or Lee. He was, she insisted, "a good boy" led astray by a kitchen

the Marine Corps and his temporary defection to Russia where he married a Russian girl.

Sirhan's life story is a variation on the theme. His father is still living, but is said to be a volatile man who beat his children when they were small. He has been separated from his family for many years.

Mary Sirhan, the mother, has managed to keep the children together, but in pillar-to-post circumstances and an atmosphere of religious fanaticism that has brewed constant discord. At least two of Sirhan's brothers have been in trouble with the law.

★

Furthermore, the crime of which Sirhan is accused stems almost inevitably from a tangled network of causes. Yet his mother claims he is "a good boy" and insists that if he has changed, it is because of having injured his head in a fall from a horse.

Much has been made of the part rebellion against authority plays in assassination attempts. On looking over the evidence, the rebellion is of a very special kind. John Fitzgerald Kennedy and his brother, Robert Francis, were, as president and presidential candidate, symbols of command and power. Still, neither had a style that was harsh or repressive. Indeed, their identification with the underprivileged was a mainspring of their appeal.

Why, then, should they be the target of assassins? Perhaps because of these very qualities of compassion and concern.

Although lodged in the person of the president, these are

largely motherly attributes. Any man who has grown up dependent on an emotionally unhealthy woman unconsciously both hates and loves her. A president or would-be-president may represent the mother-figure an assassin longed for, but never had. It should not be surprising if he despises "her" as well.

At the same time, the Kennedys represented all that many youths want to be themselves. Oswald, according to the testimony of his wife, Marina, dabbled in fantasies of gaining importance on the international scene and becoming "A prime minister." Sirhan, who was in fact an able student, dreamed of a brilliant university career, but was forced instead to settle for menial jobs. Both Jack and Bobby were known to be loving fathers, a status neither Sirhan nor Oswald knew anything about. This embarrassment of masculine riches may have been more than either of them could bear.

★

Some will dismiss this discussion as dangerous armchair psychoanalysis. In the sense that it stresses the pathology of individuals and ignores the responsibility of society, their criticism is just.

It really is only happenstance that Lee Harvey Oswald and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan seem to have been caught in the act. Given the conspiracy of forces abroad today—the hatred, the violence, the self-righteousness, the callousness, the confusions of identity and loyalty, the refusal to see the other fellow's point of view—the names of potential assassins are legion.

© 1968

173-135-Sub D12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
Coughlin PEC	

Witness Saw Smiling Girl Beside Sirhan

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—A dark-haired girl in a polka dot dress was standing smiling next to Sirhan Birshara Sirhan moments before the Jordanian immigrant stuck a gun only inches away and fired three bullets into Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, according to grand jury testimony.

A waiter standing a few feet from the assassination scene

Last-Minute Change Sealed Kennedy's
Doom. Page A-4

said Sirhan had a "sick looking smile on his face" as he stood on a tray stacker with coasters beside the girl in a pantry leading to kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

Vincent Thomas Di Pierro, the waiter, told the grand jury he did not see the girl after the shooting.

A Kennedy campaign worker, Sandy Serrano, 20, previously had told police she saw a woman in a polka dot dress run out onto a courtyard of the hotel early June 5 shouting, "We shot him."

Miss Serrano said she asked who had been shot and the woman replied: "We shot Kennedy." Miss Serrano did not appear before the grand jury which indicted Sirhan for murder.

Deputy Police Chief Robert Houston said yesterday an all-points bulletin was still out for the girl.

The 273-page transcript of the
See SIRHAN, Page A-5

The Evening Star
Washington D.C.
June 14, 1968
Page A 1

173-135-Sub.D) K3

173-135-18

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
Coghlan DEC	

Sirhan: Witness Saw Girl in Polka Dots

Continued From Page A-1
grand jury proceedings, made available yesterday, contained the testimony given in secret last Friday by 25 witnesses and other persons investigating the slaying of the 42-year-old Kennedy.

Other testimony said:

- There was a change in the last 10 seconds of Kennedy's route from the Embassy Room, where he had addressed a jubilant crowd of 1,800. It led him through the kitchen area toward the Colonial Room set aside for the working press.

- Kennedy was shot three times, not twice as earlier thought. The fatal bullet penetrated his brain. Another bullet entered his right armpit and a third struck half-an inch below the second.

- Coroner Dr. Thomas Noguchi said powder burns indicated the murder gun was fired not more than two or three inches from Kennedy's right ear.

- The crowd around Kennedy hit and cursed the assassin and appeared to be trying to kill him.

- Sirhan practiced firing a .22 caliber pistol at a target before the slaying.

Di Pierro, who said he was a part-time waiter, said he was four to six feet away when Kennedy was shot. He said he had noticed the girl and Sirhan standing on the tray stand.

"He looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her because she smiled," Di Pierro testified. "Together they were both smiling."

As Sirhan stepped down the four inches from the stand to the floor, "He was smiling. In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired, he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face," the waiter said.

Pressed for details about the girl, Di Pierro said:



—Associated Press

Thomas Di Pierro, a waiter at the Ambassador Hotel, stands at the spot where he witnessed Sen. Robert Kennedy being shot.

"I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good-looking figure — and the dress was kind of lousy ... it looked like it was a white dress and it had either black or dark purple polka dots on it.

He said the girl's face was not particularly pretty.

Di Pierro did not see the girl after the shooting.

Detectives have questioned three women who stepped forward and identified themselves

as being in the Embassy Room wearing polka dot dresses the night of the victory celebration. All were released.

Sirhan Seen With Gun

Henry A. Carreon, a playground director for the Los Angeles City schools, said he saw Sirhan the day before the slaying at a target practice range in San Gabriel.

He said Sirhan was shooting "very rapidly" with a .22 caliber pistol. He estimated 300 to 400 bullet casings were on the ground around Sirhan.

Carreon had gone to the range with a friend, David Montellano, an expert on guns, and said Sirhan asked him:

"How do you hold your gun to get better accuracy because the gun doesn't have a sight on it. Do you hold it so the front sight is definitely straight ahead with it or do you hold it up?"

Carreon said Sirhan had a box of ammunition set aside which contained "mini-magnum" bullets, a type that splits into different directions when it strikes an object.

Other highlights of the grand jury testimony included:

Jesus Perez, a janitor in the Ambassador Hotel, said Sirhan was in the party for about half an hour before Kennedy's slaying. He asked Perez three or four times whether Kennedy would come through the party, Perez said.

Karl Uecker, assistant manager at the Ambassador Hotel, escorted Kennedy from the stage of the Embassy Room when the senator had a brief speech.

He said that at the last minute, Kennedy was to go to the Colonial Room in the hotel for a speech. Uecker said that the order was given by the hotel manager.

son, manager of the hotel's food and beverage department.

Edward Minasian, the banquet captain, said it was decided to go to the Colonial Room, where press headquarters were set up.

"So the last minute — it couldn't have lasted more than 10 seconds or so — the whole party decided to turn right," he testified.

Sirhan, short, slender and swarthy, remains under constant surveillance in a heavily guarded cell at Central Jail. He is scheduled to plead to the indictment June 28.

Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, who lives alone in the village of Taybeh near Jerusalem, told newsmen yesterday he may go to the United States to see his son. He said he has applied to the Israeli military governor for a permit to visit Amman, the capital of Jordan, and will draw some money from a bank in case he decides to go.

Other Sirhan Trips Reported

Reuters

The State Department said yesterday it had no information that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, made two trips to the Middle East after he emigrated to the U.S. in 1957.

A story in the London Evening Standard yesterday said Sirhan had traveled to the Middle East in 1964 and 1966. This information varies from that obtained during the investigation into Sirhan's past after the Kennedy assassination.

"The information we presently have is that he came to the United States in 1957 with his family. So far as we have been able to check, there is no information he left or returned," a Department spokesman said.

[A spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Naturaliza-

tion Service seconded this by declaring: "Our records show Sirhan came here in 1957 and has been here ever since."

[However, resident aliens, such as Sirhan, are given the form 151 "green card" for identification and can use it to leave the United States for periods up to a year without need of a re-entry permit.

[The Immigration Service says returning resident aliens are listed on ship and plane passenger manifests and they are asked to fill out re-entry slips on returning. Those familiar with the Immigration Service's paper work say the files often leave something to be desired.]

The Standard's story said an Arab government, which it did not name, had uncovered "startling new evidence" on the background of Sirhan.

The story said the Arab government records showed that

Sirhan came to the U.S. in 1948 when he was four and returned to Jordan in 1957 where he was married at the age of 13.

He returned to the U.S. in 1957 and his wife followed him three months later, the story said.

In 1964 he spent seven months in the Middle East, four of them in Damascus, Syria. The records do not show where he was for the remaining time, it was said.

He was reported to have spent even longer in the Middle East in 1966, including five months in Cairo, according to the story.

The story said the Arab government is convinced of the accuracy of its records and is sending its information to the FBI.

[The Los Angeles Times said the London paper story is refuted by personnel files

at Granja Vista del Rio Ranch, in Corona, Calif., where Sirhan was employed from June 2, 1966 to the week ending Dec. 10, 1966.

[On Sept. 25, 1966, the Times reported, he fell from a horse he was exercising and sustained a head injury which later was the subject of court litigation in which he was awarded \$2000. Sirhan first sought medical treatment for the injury in early February, 1967.

[All these developments occurred during the time when the London report places Sirhan in the Middle East, the Times said.

[The Associated Press reported Mrs. John H. Waldner, wife of the owner of a health food store where Sirhan worked from September, 1967 to March, 1968, as saying Sirhan had told her he came to the United States as a baby.]

DATE

6/14/68

PAGE

A-10

✓ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN



United Press International
SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN
...had 'sick-looking smile'

773-135-Sub D 14

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan R.C.

L.A. Grand Jury Releases Details Of Assassination

Gun Practice, Movements of Sirhan Cited

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 13

— While California voters were casting their ballots for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, his accused assassin was practicing for his murder on a gun range, a grand jury learned in secret testimony disclosed today.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old Palestine Arab indicted for the killing, later lay in wait at the Ambassador Hotel, fidgeting anxiously in a backstage pantry while the Senator gave his victory speech, witnesses said.

The Senator was gunned down with deadly precision. Kennedy was hit three times when Sirhan finally pulled the trigger with "a very sick-looking smile on his face," as one witness described it.

3 Bullets Hit Senator

The coroner said he doubted the muzzle of the gun was "more than two or three inches" from Kennedy's ear when the fatal bullet struck.

Two other bullets hit the Presidential candidate in his right arm pit — only a half-inch apart — apparently when Kennedy raised his arms in reaction to the first shot that penetrated his brain.

An autopsy report issued last Thursday said doctors had found only two bullets — the one in the brain and one that entered in the armpit and lodged in the neck.

Only moments before the shooting, the grand jury testimony showed today, Sirhan had been chatting at the scene with a girl in a polka dot dress.

"He looked as though he talked to her or flirted with her because she smiled," said Vincent Di Piero, a young part-time waiter at the Ambassador.

'Sick-Looking Smile'

"In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face. That's one thing — I can never forget that."

Less than 26 hours later, the Senator was dead.

"The cause of death," said Los Angeles County Coroner Thomas Noguchi, "was a gunshot wound of the right mastoid, penetrating the brain."

The grim chronicle was laid out in stark, compelling testimony before the grand jury here last Friday. District Attorney Evelle Younger said its disclosure is routine in California.

The narrative that unfolds begins around noon on June 4 at the San Gabriel Gun Club, east of Arcadia.

Henry A. Carreon, a play ground director and student in police science at a Los Angeles college, said he went out there for target practice that day with a friend, David Montelano.

They noticed Sirhan around five feet away, shooting very rapidly on the range with a revolver, Carreon said.

"I asked him what he was doing," Carreon said.

See KENNEDY

173-135

INDEXED	FILED
JUN 12 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
Gogala	
Carreon	

173-135-Sub D 15

DATE 6/14/68

PAGE A-1

- ☒ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- ☐ THE EVENING STAR
- ☐ THE SUNDAY STAR
- ☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- ☐ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Sirhan Practiced With Pistol, Witnesses Say

DATE 6/14/68

PAGE A-1

☒ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☐ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON POST AMERICAN

KENNEDY, From A1

"Valver it was," Carreon testified. "And at first he paused. He didn't say nothing, like as if I wasn't—didn't exist."

"And then I asked him again. I said, 'Well, what kind of revolver is it?'"

"And he said, 'an Iver Johnson.'"

From the empty shell casings lying around Sirhan, Carreon estimated that Sirhan had already fired the gun 300 to 400 times.

Precisely when Sirhan showed up at the Ambassador Hotel that evening was unclear. But Harold L. Burba, a photographer for the Los Angeles Fire Department, who happened to be in the hotel, indicated "at least a half-hour before the shooting."

"At the best of my knowledge, this person followed the Senator in when he arrived," he said. I couldn't say how far back. But he was in the group that walked in with the Senator.

Burba apparently remembered the incident because he had his official uniform on and Sirhan, he said, stared at him.

Porter's Testimony

Jesus Perez, a kitchen porter, recalled Sirhan, too. It was about a half-hour before the assassination, he agreed.

"... He (Sirhan) asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy was coming that way," Perez told the jurors. "... He was there talking with me and other boys ... We were about a half an hour standing there."

Finally, his victory speech over, Kennedy moved from the hotel's Embassy Room podium through a doorway to the pantry, headed for a news conference in the temporary press room beyond.

Seventeen-year-old Irwin Stroll, in charge of guarding one of the doors by the pantry, shook the Senator's hand as he passed by.

'Like Firecrackers'

"And then I saw the signal from Stephen Smith, his brother-in-law; it was a nod of the head," Stroll recalled. "He said, 'Come on, Irwin' ... Two press people beat me to the door and I went in right in front of Mrs. Kennedy," he said.

"Then we went through the



Associated Press

JESUS PEREZ

... answered Sirhan

door, and all of a sudden the procession stopped and it was like firecrackers, just pop, pop, pop, all over the place—and, well I did this, and I did this, I pushed Mrs. Kennedy—just a reaction—and everyone in front turned around."

Stroll was shot in the knee. So was Ira Gladstein, 19, a reporter for Continental News, who had been in the kitchen looking for some sandwiches. He stepped over Stroll, who had just been hit, and was wounded in the left thigh himself. Gladstein staggered over to a chair.

"And the first thing I said was, 'How is Sen. Kennedy? What happened to him?'"

Ethel Kennedy heard and misunderstood.

"... She said to me, 'How

dare you talk about my husband that way," and she slapped me across the face," Gladstein testified.

"And I said, 'I am sorry, lady, but I was shot too. I'd like to know how the Senator was—or is.'"

"And she said, 'Oh, I am sorry, Honey,' and kissed me. This was Mrs. Ethel Kennedy."

Watching Sirhan

The young part-time waiter, Vincent Di Pierro, meanwhile had had his eyes on Sirhan. Di Pierro wasn't working that night but he had come over to the hotel to get a glance at the senator.

"I went through the backways to avoid the security people as well as, your know, the crowd, because nobody could get through there (the backways) unless they were an employe," he said. Di Pierro got to the pantry shortly after 1:35 p.m.

"The only reason I noticed him (Sirhan)," he said, "was there was a very good looking girl next to him." Sirhan, he said, was standing on a tray stand that would have boosted his height by about six inches.

"From that moment on, I just looked at the girl and I saw him get down off the tray stand. And when I went to turn the next thing I saw was him holding the gun ... When he pulled the trigger, the first shot, Mr. Kennedy fell down ... he (Sirhan) looked like he was on his tiptoes because he wasn't that tall."

Carl Uecker, an assistant maitre d' at the Ambassador, found himself standing next to Sirhan when he shooting began.

Grabs Assassin

He grabbed the assailant but Sirhan, his hand apparently frozen on the gun kept shooting.

"I was standing there," Uecker said, "and he was shooting, and I could feel when he was turning his hand forward the crowd, that's why I pushed him over the steam table as far as I could, to as most to the end of the steam table."

An ambulance was called at 12:17 a.m. The police arrived minutes later, taking Sirhan off in a patrol car, screaming, angry crowd.



Associated Press

VINCENT THOMAS DI PIERRO

... tells of shooting

173-135 *Pec*

DATE 5/14/68

PAGE A-1

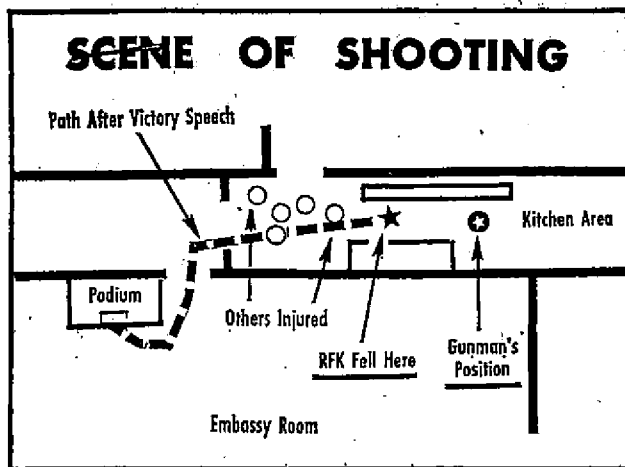
☒ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

☐ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON POST - AMERICAN



June 14, 1968

The Washington Post

Diagram of the Ambassador Hotel assassination scene.

kept shouting "kill him, kill him."

The girl in the polka dot dress has yet to be found.

Sirhan May Get Bulletproof Cage

LOS ANGELES, June 13—A bulletproof partition or cubicle may be built in a courtroom to protect Sirhan Bishara Sirhan if he stands trial here for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the Los Angeles Times learned today.

The plans involve the additional possibility of constructing a bulletproof corridor from the cell to the courtroom.

Bulletproof docks for defendants have been used before. Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann, during his 1961 trial in Jerusalem, was enclosed by a box in the courtroom.

Sandy Serrano, a young Kennedy campaign worker, has said that she heard the girl run off shouting—triumphantly, by some reports, "We shot him, we shot him."

Miss Serrano did not testify before the grand jury.

Three girls including a belly dancer in a bouffant blonde wig have come forward to tell authorities that they were the one in the polka dot dress, but police have discounted the suggestions. District Attorney Younger has said he suspects "a lot more polka dot girls" before the investigation is over.

Remembers Girl

"Whether or not (the girl) was involved, I don't know," DiPierro told the jurors. In any event his memory of her was clear.

"I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good looking figure—and the dress was kind of lousy," he said. "It looked as though it was a white dress and it had either black or dark

purple polka dots on it." He said he thought it had a kind of bib in front.

The girl, he added, had dark hair cut just above the shoulders and "what looked like a short nose.

"She wasn't too—facially, she wasn't too pretty; she was not that pretty," DiPierro said. But, he added, "like I say, figure—she had a very good figure."

In Sirhan's pockets, after his arrest, police said they found four \$100 bills, one \$5 bill, four \$1 bills, some change, two newspaper clippings, a car key, two unused .22-caliber bullets and a white sheet with a Kennedy campaign cheer printed on it.

Car Parked Near Hotel

The key, police testified, was found to fit a 1956 DeSoto parked near the hotel and registered to Sirhan.

In the car they found a wallet containing a Canadian \$1 bill, a library card and a driver's license belonging to Sirhan, six keys on a wire key ring, and on the front seat under some newspapers, two more expended .22-caliber cartridges.

They also found a box for .22-caliber "mini-mag" bullets that usually tear and split out in different directions on penetrating an object.

Sirhan had reportedly told those who met him on the pistol range that they made for better accuracy and long distances.

Finally police said they also found a receipt from the Lock Stock and Barrel Store in San Gabriel for four boxes of .22-caliber bullets bought June 1 and costing \$3.99.

DATE 6/14/68

PAGE A-1

✓ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Special Task Force Set for RFK Trial

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, June 13— Formation of a special task force of investigators and prosecutors to handle the Robert F. Kennedy assassination trial was jointly announced today by the police, district attorney and U.S. Justice Department.

Deputy Chief Robert Houghton, commander of the detective bureau, said "23 hand-

picked" detectives have been assigned to the case.

At a news conference, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger said, "We have formed a special legal team which will act as advisers to the officers during the investigation and will handle the prosecution during the trial."

U.S. Atty. Matt. Byrne, only said the Justice Department and the FBI is "cooperating fully" with the police and the district attorney and that the Justice Department "is 100 per cent satisfied with the way the Los Angeles Police Department has handled the case."

Younger indicated there will not be a change of venue, that the accused slayer, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, will plead not guilty and that the trial will begin within three months.

DATE 6/14/68

PAGE A-10

☒ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☐ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON HERALD AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D 16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan

Jeane Dixon on Sen. Teddy Kennedy

Teddy Kennedy is being urged by some people to take on the political aspirations of his brother and by others to get out of politics. If I were the senator from Massachusetts I think I would listen to Jeane Dixon.

This writer is not given to believing in the occult. I have known America's most famous prophet for 20 years and I have done my best to rationalize every correct prediction she has made out of the realm of the supernatural into the province of the probable, the deductible or the coincidental.

One is apt to say, in this business of predicting, that the prophet is bound to be right once in a while because of the law of averages. After all, even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

But one had a hard time explaining away her outright prediction of John Kennedy's assassination or the sense of horror and urgency that engulfed her as the time neared and she tried to get word to him. The well known Washingtonians she told in advance have each separately corroborated her story.

NOW EVEN AN ATTEMPTED explanation is out of the question, because I can personally testify to the fact that at least a year ago she predicted Bobby Kennedy would not be president because he would meet with violence. Deeply concerned, she asked me not to print it, but I would not have done so anyhow. First of all, I did not accept it as gospel. Secondly, there was the danger of putting an idea in an unbalanced mind.

The most that a colleague printed in the Washington Star was that Jeane said in her New Year predictions of 1968:

"I see a great burst around Sen. Robert Kennedy. This could mean a great tragic — and planned — accident."

But privately she was more specific. She said he would be killed.

In Miami around the middle of last January, after making a speech at the Kentucky Fried Chicken convention, Jeane took Col. Sanders, the founder of the chicken firm; James Matthews, owner here of the Tops Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants, and Frank Callahan, the elderly Sanders' traveling companion, up to her suite where they had a chat. There were eight people in all.

According to Matthews, Jeane told them: "I am going to tell you something but you have to swear yourselves to secrecy. Bobby Kennedy will meet the same fate as his brother — in June in California."

She also, he remembers with equal vividness,



JEANE DIXON

predicted that trouble would start up again in Korea. That was one week before the Pueblo incident.

ON MAY 28 JEANE says she went to the fateful Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to make a speech and someone said to come in the back way and they could then slip up to the manager's office. As she went in in this uncannily coincidental manner, she suddenly mumbled aloud, "This is the room! I can see him being carried out with blood on his face!"



SEN. KENNEDY

Capt. George H. Maines of Miami Beach, who was with her, turned and asked, "What are you babbling about?"

"Bobby Kennedy," she replied. "This is the room where he is going to be shot. I feel it all around me."

Knowing from first-hand information that her grim prophecy about Bobby proved true. I telephoned her the other day about Teddy Kennedy. This was her immediate reaction.

"I hope Teddy will not run for the presidency. He can prolong his life by not doing it.

"If Teddy leaves things to God's timing," continued Jeane, who is a devout Catholic, "if he will meditate and know within himself that he should fulfill his purpose for himself and not listen to what the people around him think — and fulfill his obligations in the Senate — his life will be prolonged.

"If you can stop him you will be saving his life."

THERE CAN BE NO LONGER any doubt about the most sought-after political song in this campaign — "Will everyone here kindly step to the rear and let a winner lead the way."

Nelson Rockefeller wanted it but it is Hubert Humphrey's — signed, sealed and delivered.

If the songwriters and publisher had other ideas, they have given them up. David Merrick has confirmed in writing what he told this columnist at a White House party the first week in May. He wrote a letter dated May 28 to the Humphrey headquarters stating in no uncertain terms:

"You have my permission to use 'Step to the Rear' for Mr. Humphrey's campaign, and if there are any claims of any kind from the composer, lyricist and-or agent, the E. H. Morris Publishing Co., I hereby indemnify you against such claims. Good luck."

Merrick produced the musical, "How Now, Dow Jones," in which the song was the biggest and best thing in the show. And when David, who was a lawyer before he became Broadway's most successful producer, puts on a show he first acquires copyright ownership of the whole thing. In this case he assigned only sheet music and record rights to the Morris Publishing Co.

He has agreed to the song's new campaign title, "Let a Winner Lead the Way," and to new sheet music with the Humphrey lyrics. In fact, he has given it carte blanche.

The lyrics sung here at the Humphrey birthday party which were written by HHH volunteer Muriel Nellis have been submitted, together with some words written by the Vice President's daughter Nancy Solomonson, to original lyricist Carolyn Leigh for editing, polishing or rewriting.

Although Morris had been quoted as expecting thousands for the use of the song, Merrick told Mrs. Nellis when he gave her his verbal okay in early May not to worry about the lost fee.

"As late as this morning," he said, "we had a very serious offer from the Rockefeller people, but

Sirhan Reads on Occultism

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, charged with the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, seems satisfied with his treatment in custody, says an American Civil Liberties Union attorney.

A. L. Wirin, counsel for the ACLU's Southern California chapter, commented on Sirhan's condition at a news conference yesterday. Wirin has visited the Jordanian immigrant in his 12-by-12 foot jail cell several times since his arrest June 5.

Sirhan is denied radio and television and says he doesn't want to read newspapers, Wirin said. The attorney said the defendant is allowed a few minutes of exercise each day in the corridor outside his cell and spends his time reading books on occultism.

Wirin declined to give the titles of the books Sirhan read and

would not name a Protestant religious organization to which Sirhan asked Wirin to contribute \$20.

Wirin said he was asked to give Sirhan's mother \$300 of the \$400 found in Sirhan's possession when he was arrested. Wirin said the rest of Sirhan's money would be deposited with the sheriff's office to pay for items Sirhan needed while in jail.

Security for Sirhan remains strong, Wirin added. He said he was searched each time he visited the prisoner and the deputy accompanying him to Sirhan's cell in the jail's infirmary wing was given the same treatment.

Despite Sirhan's asking Wirin three times to defend him, the attorney said he would not take the case. His role, Wirin said, was to safeguard Sirhan's rights and to help find a lawyer to represent him.

Since his first court appear-

ance June 5, hours after Kennedy was shot at a celebration in honor of his victory in the California presidential primary, Sirhan has been represented by a public defender, Wilbur Littlefield, who was named yesterday to take charge of the case.

Sirhan is "not dissatisfied with the public defender" appointed by the court to defend him, Wirin said, but he wants two private attorneys. He can't afford to pay a lawyer, so he will accept someone suggested by Los Angeles County Bar Association.

"A number of attorneys" already have agreed to serve without a fee, Wirin said. He declined to identify them.

Wirin said he understood from press accounts that two prominent defense attorneys, F. Lee Bailey and Melvin Belli, had offered to represent Sirhan, but that the suspect "doesn't desire their services."

DATE 6-12-68

PAGE A-4

☐ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D 18

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 12 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coughlin CC

Story of THE Gun

How Weapon Was Traced

By MARY ELLEN LEARY

SACRAMENTO, Calif., June 13 — Luck and California's gun-registration law are credited by California authorities for the quick trace made on the gun that killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last week in Los Angeles.

It took just 75 seconds after a policeman gave the gun's serial number to his district office for Los Angeles police headquarters to learn who first bought the .22 caliber eight-shot Iver Johnson revolver Aug. 10, 1965 during the panic that followed the Watts riots.

Nine hours later, by mid-day June 5, police had the complete history of the gun. The trace began with Alhambra resident Albert Leslie Hertz who bought it at a Pasadena sporting goods store for his wife's protection. A year ago, she gave it to her married daughter, Mrs. Dany Westlake. Last Christmas Mrs. Westlake decided she "didn't want it around the house" and gave it to a mechanically minded young neighbor, George Erhard. And only a few weeks ago, Mr. Erhard sold it to a fellow worker at a Pasadena department store. That fellow worker, known as "Joe," was Munir Sirhan, older brother of Sirhan Sirhan.

MORE THAN LUCK

But more than luck concocted the system which made the record available.

This lies in police reliance on California's famed CII — Criminal Identification and Investigation Bureau. This central state information agency, part of the attorney general's office, is next only to the FBI in extensive record-keeping.

It is so heavily used that Los Angeles maintains a "hot line" to its computer center at Sacramento and averages 250 to 300 requests daily to identify guns, criminals, stolen property or "M.O." (mode of operation).

The query concerning the gun used in the Kennedy assassination was fed into the computer at 3 a.m. and the answer reported seconds later to the waiting policeman.

Among all the files this office

handles, its most complete are the three million computer-tape records it has on concealable guns.

IN TRIPPLICATE

California licenses all persons who sell handguns and requires each merchant to fill out in triplicate a "register" form for every sale, with one copy to local police and another to the CII. The purchaser may not take possession of the gun for five days after. Within that time police and the CII check out the purchaser's name, address and general description, including age and color. No fingerprinting or documented proof of identity is required prior to purchase, however.

No similar registry is kept for shotguns or rifles. Anyone over 18 may walk out of a store carrying these the moment after purchase.

"Post facto — after the crime — California has one of the best systems in existence," said Chief Deputy Attorney General Charles O'Brien. "But even this has big holes in it."

"If this gun had come from out-of-state or had been bought by mail order we'd have had no record. If it had been bought or-

iginally under a false name, we could never have traced it.

"But before the fact — before the crime — when it comes to limiting gun traffic or effective registration of gun ownership California laws are pathetically weak."

Mr. O'Brien said California law lags behind nine states which require fingerprinted registration and far behind New York's Sullivan Act.

DATE 6-13-68

PAGE 47

- ___ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- ___ THE EVENING STAR
- ___ THE SUNDAY STAR
- X THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- ___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D 19

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan

KENNEDY'S DOOM SEALED

Fatal Last-Minute Change

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Karl Uecker was just inches away as Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot, but that was only part of his personal drama the morning of June 5.

Uecker, assistant maitre d' at the Ambassador Hotel where Kennedy was celebrating his primary victory, told the Los Angeles grand jury last week that a last-minute change in plans took Kennedy from the Embassy ballroom to the kitchen hallway in which the gunman was waiting.

As he told it on the witness stand, Kennedy "was supposed to go downstairs, the next floor, the next ballroom where we had the other people who couldn't come into the Embassy Ballroom."

"We had about fifteen or eighteen hundred people in there, and he was supposed to make a speech over there."

Last-Minute Change

"And their minds were changed at the last—the last minute."

"When I came out, I just remember that somebody told me, 'Turn to your right. Bring towards (sic) the Colonial Room.'"

He did not explain the change of mind.

Uecker testified he led Kennedy from the Embassy Room stage to the kitchen area by the hand.

"By my left hand, holding him on his right hand," said Uecker. Kennedy let go to shake hands with a dishwasher.

"And then I took his hand again ... something rushed on my right side ... I didn't recognize what it was, and I saw some paper flying ... paper or white pieces of things."

"Then I heard the first shot and the second shot right after

that, and Mr. Kennedy fell out of my hand. I lost his hand."

"I looked for him, and I saw him falling down."

"And I turned around again, and I saw the man — standing next to me."

"The arm, was holding the gun in, (sic) push the arm down on towards the steam heater, and my right arm took around his neck, as tight as I could, and pressing him against the steam heater."

"In the meantime, somebody else came behind me and pushed me against the steam heater. The guy in front of me couldn't get loose."

"While I was holding the hand where he had the gun in, I was trying to get the point of the gun as far I could away from the part where Mr. Kennedy was laying (sic)."

"From the left side, I was trying to push the gun away to the right side where I didn't see too many people, while he was still shooting."

Hitting Hand on Heater

"... I was hitting his hand on the steam heater as hard as I could, with my left hand, I had him right here on the wrist, and hitting my left hand on the heater to get rid of the gun."

"He has his gun in his right hand?"

"In his right hand, yes."

"And you grabbed him with your left hand?"

"The left hand, yes, and had the right arm around his neck. I was standing there and he was shooting, and I could feel when he was turning his hand towards the crowd. That's why I pushed all over the steam table as far as I could, almost to the end of the steam table."

"You could feel his hand with the gun in it turning, trying to turn the gun toward the crowd?"

Kept Pushing It Away

"Towards the crowd or towards me, I don't know."

"You kept pushing it away?"

"Pushing it away."

"On the steam table?"

"Right."

Uecker said he held the suspect "until the gun was, must have been empty, and I was still hollering, 'Get his gun, get his gun!' ..."

"The people behind me were pushing me against the steam table and I had — still was holding on to him. And then saw some hands coming over, reaching for the gun. I don't know who it was."

"In the meantime, I looked over my left shoulder and saw my partner, Eddie Minasian, and hollered to him, 'Get the police, get the police.' I saw him running off, taking off through the people ..."

"While I was holding the right arm from the shooter, I looked to the left, and while he was shooting still, I saw some more people falling down."

"You indicated something rushed past you. Was that a person?"

"... Yes, it was the one who shot ... He reached over in front of me."

Uecker's body had been between this person and Kennedy.

173-135-Sub 7 20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan Bca

Kennedy Probe to Sift Every Bit of Evidence

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A hand-picked team of policemen assigned to investigate every lead in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been ordered to treat the question of conspiracy with an open mind.

"We must be ready for whatever direction it might go," said Deputy Police Chief Robert Houghton yesterday as he announced the formation of the special 23-man unit.

U.S. Atty. Matt Byrne, who appeared at a news conference with Houghton and Younger, said the full resources of the FBI and the Secret Service would be available to the Los Angeles task force.

He avoided direct answer to a question as to whether Interpol — the international police agency — would play any part.

The determination of Los Angeles' law enforcement establishment to avoid the type of criticism that followed the investigation by Dallas authorities of President John F. Kennedy's death was underscored by District Atty. Evelle J. Younger.

"If there are 10,000 leads and we checked out 9,999 and let the other one go, someone would write a book accusing us of covering up something," Younger said. "Unimportant leads that might be ignored in other cases will be checked out. We plan to present in open court every piece of evidence about this case."

Younger said that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused of killing the New York senator, will be prosecuted by a three-man task force from his staff headed by Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney. Compton, a UCLA football hero in the 1940s, joined the district attorney's of-

DATE 6-14-68

PAGE A-4

THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

THE SUN-AY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D-22

21 R

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coyne

NEW YORK TIMES
6-13-68

CUBAN EXILE RECALLS TALK WITH SIRHAN

MIAMI, June 12 (AP)—A man who described himself as a former army officer with Fidel Castro, said today that Sirhan B. Sirhan, charged with the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, told him before Senator Kennedy's death that "what we need in the United States is another Fidel Castro."

The exile, José Duarte, said he argued with Sirhan and scuffled with him. He told a news conference that the incident occurred about three weeks ago in Hollywood, Calif.

Mr. Duarte said he recognized Sirhan when his picture appeared in newspapers after Senator Kennedy's death.

The Cuban exile, who said he had been living in Los Angeles, said that pictures of Premier Castro and slogans critical of the Vietnam war were posted on the house where he met Sirhan. Mr. Duarte said he and about 15 Cuban companions had attended a meeting advertising an exhibition of photographic slides taken in Cuba.

C-3

my J

173-135-Sub D-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coglin

New York Times

2 SIRHAN FRIENDS DESCRIBE MEETING

Tell Life Magazine He Was
Distraught Before Shooting

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, indicted as the killer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was distraught and shouted "Kennedy should not be President" a few hours before the assassination, according to an article in Life magazine.

In its issue that comes out today, the magazine reports that two of Sirhan's friends, who saw him at the Ambassador Hotel on the night the Senator was shot there, have told agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the suspect flew into a rage at the mention of Mr. Kennedy's name.

One of the men is identified in the magazine as Enrique Rabago, a 35-year-old unemployed mechanic; the other, Life says, has not been named.

The article asserts that two men met Sirhan in the lobby of the hotel at about 9:15 on the night of June 4, just after Sirhan had been thrown out of a victory party held by supporters of Dr. Max Rafferty, California state Superintendent of Education, who won the Republican senatorial nomination.

Mr. Rabago and his friend reportedly asked Sirhan what had happened and he told them, Life says, that a waitress, thinking he looked out of place in his white pants and tieless shirt refused to serve him a drink. Life reports he argued with and contemptuously tipped the girl \$20 before a security guard evicted him.

Ended With Tirade

In telling his friends what happened, the magazine reports, Sirhan ended with a tirade against "the rich Rafferty people who step all over the poor."

According to the article, Mr. Rabago nodded in the direction of the Embassy Room, where Senator Kennedy was due to make his victory speech, and said, "Robert Kennedy might help the poor."

"Kennedy, Kennedy — ~~he should never be President~~" the magazine quotes Sirhan as having shouted. "You think he really wants to help the poor?"

Mr. Rabago, who told his story to law enforcement authorities on June 7, recalled that Sirhan's voice quavered and that at the time he might have had too much to drink. Now, the magazine says, he thinks it might have been rage.

"Kennedy helps himself, he's just using the poor," Sirhan is said to have protested. "Can't you see that?"

Mr. Rabago and the unnamed friend, say they shook their heads and tried to reason with Sirhan. Then they watched him wander off toward the Embassy Room and the Kennedy party.

173-135-5480-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

BAC

New York Times

Shell Purchase Noted

~~SAN GABRIEL~~, Calif., June 15 (AP)—A gun store owner said Saturday that he sold four boxes of ammunition on June 1 to three men, one of them Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the man accused of murdering Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5.

Ben Herrick, 42-year-old owner of the Lock, Stock and Barrel in this Los Angeles suburb, said in an interview that Sirhan and two small, swarthy men who may have been, like Sirhan, Jordanians, purchased two boxes each of two brand of .22-caliber, long rifle hollow point shells on the afternoon of Saturday, June 1.

Sirhan, 24, captured as Mr. Kennedy lay fatally wounded on the floor of the Ambassador Hotel after his victory in the California Democratic primary election, was holding a .22-caliber revolver that has been identified as the murder weapon.

173-135-5080-24

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI — WASH. F. O.	

BHC

A Sick-Looking Smile...

Grand Jury Transcript Reveals Testimony on Sirhan's Appearance as He Fired Fatal Shots Close to Victim

LOS ANGELES, June 14 (UPD) — A last minute change in the route taken by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy after his victory speech led him to the pantry where he was felled by an assassin, Grand Jury testimony revealed.

Sirhan B. Sirhan practiced firing a .22 caliber pistol at a target range, littering the ground with hundreds of casings, 12 hours before the slaying, a witness said.

A dark-haired girl "with a very good figure" wearing a polka dot dress stood smiling next to Sirhan moments before he aimed a gun inches away from Sen. Kennedy's head and pulled the trigger, according to another witness.

A waiter standing a few feet away from the senator when he was shot said Sirhan had "a sick-looking smile on his face" as he fired the first two shots.

The 273-page transcript of the secret Grand Jury proceedings that one week ago resulted in a first-degree murder indictment against the Jordanian immigrant was released to the public yesterday. It contained the testimony of 23 witnesses and other persons investigating the slaying of the 42-year-old senator.

DISCLOSURES

The transcript disclosed:

- Sen. Kennedy was shot three times, not twice as believed earlier. The fatal bullet penetrated his brain. Another entered his right armpit, apparently as his hands flew up instinctively to protect his face. The third struck a half inch below the second.

- Powder burns indicated the weapon was fired not more than two or three inches from Sen. Kennedy's right ear.

- The crowd around the mortally wounded senator hit and cursed at the assassin. "Everyone was trying to kill him."

Karl Uecker, assistant maitre d' at the Ambassador Hotel, escorted Sen. Kennedy from the stage of the Embassy Room early that Wednesday morning after the senator had delivered a speech before cheering supporters claiming victory in the California Democratic presidential primary.

He said plans were changed at the last minute and Sen. Kennedy was to go to a news conference in the Colonial Room by way of the pantry.

Police said an all points bulletin is still out for the mysterious girl in the polka dot dress reported seen in the pantry by several witnesses to the shooting.

NOTICED GIRL

Vincent Thomas di Pierro, a waiter, told the jury he was four to six feet away from Sen. Kennedy when he was shot. He noticed Sirhan and the girl standing on a platform used to stack oval trays.

"He looked as tho he either talked to her or flirted with her because she smiled," Mr. di Pierro said. "Together they were both smiling."

As Sirhan stepped down the four inches from the stand to the floor, "he was smiling. In fact,

Vincent (Thomas) DiPierro, a witness to the assassination of Sen. Kennedy, stands to the left of the

minute the first two shots were fired, he said had a very sick-looking smile on his face," the waiter said.

Pressed for details on the girl, Mr. di Pierro said:

"I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good-looking figure — and the dress was kind of lousy ... it had either black or dark purple polka dots on it."

Detectives have questioned three women who stepped forward and identified themselves as being in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador wearing polka dot dresses the night of the victory celebration. All were released.

Henry A. Carreon, a playground director for the Los Angeles city schools, said he saw Sirhan the day before the slaying at a target practice range in San Gabriel.

He said Sirhan was shooting "very rapidly."

DATE 6-14-68

PAGE 3

THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

X THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D22 25M

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 14 1968	
FBI - WASH. D.C.	

Cyberman

spot in the Ambassador Hotel where the senator fell. The spot is the light area.

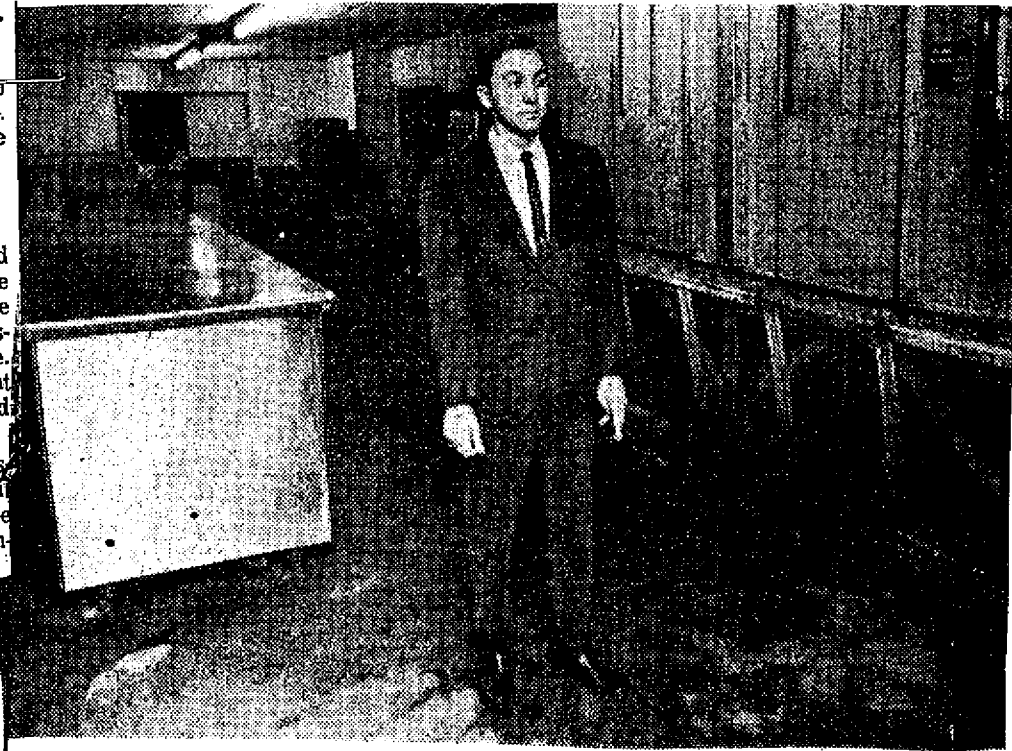
with a .22 caliber pistol. He estimated 300 to 400 bullet casings were on the ground around Sirhan. He said Sirhan asked advice on how to handle the gun.

SLAPPED

Other highlights of the testimony included:

- Ira Goldstein, 19, a young newsman wounded by the eight shots fired from the pistol, said he asked Ethel Kennedy how Sen. Kennedy was. He said she replied: "How dare you talk to my husband that way," and slapped him across the face. Mr. Goldstein said he told her he was sorry, that he had been shot too. He said Mrs. Kennedy told him, "Oh, I'm sorry, Honey," and kissed him.

- Jesus Perez, a kitchen helper in the Ambassador, said Sirhan was in the pantry for about half an hour before Sen. Kennedy came in. He asked Mr. Perez several times whether Sen. Kennedy would come thru the pantry.



—UPI Photo

DATE 6-14-68

PAGE 3

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

☒ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Police plan check^c of all RFK leads

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A hand-picked team of policemen assigned to investigate every lead in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been ordered to treat the question of conspiracy with an open mind.

"We must be ready for whatever direction it might go," said Deputy Police Chief Robert Houghton, who announced the formation of the special 23-man unit.

The determination of Los Angeles' law enforcement establishment to avoid the type of criticism that followed the investigation by Dallas Authorities of President Kennedy's death was underscored by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger.

"If there are 10,000 leads and we checked out 9,999 and let the other one go, someone would write a book accusing us of covering up something," Younger said. "Unimportant leads that might be ignored in other cases will be checked out. We plan to present in open court every piece of evidence about this case."

Younger said that Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused killer of the New York Senator, will be prosecuted by a three-man task force from his staff headed by Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney. Compton, a UCLA football hero in the 1940s, joined the District Attorney's office in 1951, and is a veteran of 200 homicide prosecutions.

U.S. Atty. Matt Byrne, who appeared at a news

conference with Houghton and Younger, said the full resources of the FBI and the Secret Service would be available to the Los Angeles task force.

He avoided direct answer to a question whether INTERPOL — The International Police Agency—would play any part.

DATE 6-18-68

PAGE 5

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

X WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D 24 26

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 19 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghter BFC ✓

Sirhan's Folks Back Home

LOS ANGELES, June 8 (UPI) — The mother and a brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, moved back into their Pasadena home yesterday under police protection but refused to talk about the case.

The family had been under guard in a nearby apartment since Sen. Kennedy was fatally wounded on June 5.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan had talked with public defender Wilbur Littlefield about seeing the 24-year-old Sirhan but she disclosed yesterday she still had not seen him.

The armed Pasadena officer sat reading a magazine on the front porch of the small white frame house in a drowsy section of Pasadena. The home is guarded around the clock.

DATE

6-18-68

PAGE

8

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

X THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

27
173-135-Sub D 25

SEARCHED.....
INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....
FILED.....
JUN 10 1968
FBI - LOS ANGELES
Coyburn & Co



—UPI Photo

SIRHAN'S COUNSEL — Los Angeles Atty. Wilbur Littlefield has been named by the Public Defender to defend Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan had asked for two top lawyers but admitted his inability to pay. Both Lebanese and Jordanian attorneys have offered to help in his defense. Sirhan's father, Bishara, at a press conference in Jordan yesterday, appealed to Pope Paul and the world's conscience to make sure the trial is fair. He said Sen. Kennedy's pro-Israel stance "provoked" his son's "sensitive feelings."

DATE 6-19-68

PAGE 10

— THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

— THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

X THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

— WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-SubD 26 28

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 21 1968	
FBI - WASH. D. C.	

Coghtan JEC ✓



—Associated Press

SIRHAN HEARING POSTPONED

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan smiles broadly after he was granted a two-weeks continuance for entering a plea in a Los Angeles court on a charge that he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. He is scheduled to appear in court again on Aug. 2

DATE July 20, 1968

PAGE JA-3

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON AND AMERICAN

173-135-5060-29

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <u>KS</u>	FILED <u>LS</u>
JUL 23 1968	
FBI — WASH., D. C.	

Coghlan

Sirhan Entering of Pled Is Delayed 3 Weeks

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan today was granted an additional three weeks to enter his plea on charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The 24-year-old defendant displayed in icy calm when he appeared before Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer. He spoke only half a dozen words in response to questions from the court.

He showed a moment of nervousness when he entered the makeshift courtroom, formerly a jail chapel, flanked by five deputy sheriffs who towered over him.

The motion for a continuance was made by defense counsel Russel E. Parsons, who pointed out that he was just recently named as attorney for Sirhan and had only a limited time to study the case.

The judge granted the continuance until July 19. The district

attorney's office made no objection.

At the request of defense counsel, the court appointed Dr. George Y. Abe of the metropolitan state hospital to give Sirhan a "general psychiatric examination."

The continuance meant Sirhan may not be tried until September and possibly even until after the November elections.

Sirhan has selected as his courtroom attorney Grant Cooper, the lawyer who defended Dr. Her

See SIRHAN, Page 1A-

DATE 6-28-68

PAGE A-1

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 2 1968	
FBI - WASH. D.C.	

Coghtan

SIRHAN

Continued From Page A-1
nard Finch in the sensational
Finch-Tregoff murder trials.

Former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association and one of the West Coast's top criminal attorneys, Cooper agreed to serve without fee in fulfillment of a "duty" to see that Sirhan receives a fair trial and competent defense.

Parsons, a veteran of almost 50 years' experience specializing in appeal cases, previously was retained as the attorney of record for the Jordanian immigrant.

Cooper will enter the case after representing a defendant in a case charging that millionaire Harry Karl and entertainers Phil Silvers, Tony Martin and Zeppo Marx were cheated of thousands of dollars in card games at the Los Angeles Friars Club.

DATE 6-28-68

PAGE A-6

____ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

X THE EVENING STAR

____ THE SUNDAY STAR

____ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON HERALD AMERICAN

EXCLUSIVELY QUINN



Was Radio Question A Threat to RFK?

—BY BETTY BEALE

Sally Quinn, daughter of Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Bill Quinn, was in California to help with Robert Kennedy's campaign and described at the French embassy yesterday an incident that took place in Oakland on the morning of Memorial Day.

She had set up an interview with Kennedy supporter George Plimpton for a radio show on KNEW at 10:30 a.m., and she was there with George when the first telephone question came in.

The question, which shocked Plimpton into frozen silence, was: "Is Bobby Kennedy prepared to die?"

When the question met with stunned silence, the questioner continued somewhat along this line: "You know his brother was assassinated and Bobby's likely to be assassinated, too."

By this time George had recovered his composure and replied, "One must realize there is always a risk in running for public office."

The unknown man continued jabbing on about the subject until the interviewer cut him off.

Sally does not remember whether the voice was a foreign one or not, but a replay of the program might be interesting. Prominent New Yorker Plimpton was pictured in a news magazine this week grappling with Sirhan Sirhan to get the gun from him right after the fatal shooting.

THE FRENCH EMBASSY was the scene of the Chevalier du Tastevin, annual

young and with-it. The diplomatic couple, who are the newest addition to the Italian embassy, are all four of those things themselves.

Bartolomeo (son of Countess Attolico of Rome), the new press counselor of the embassy, and his bright little wife Nicoletta, gave the party in their modern art-filled Georgetown house and garden.

As pretty as it was, it couldn't compare with the garden of his mother's Roman villa. It's on the old Appian Way, and the garden is bordered by walls built by the ancient Romans.

The gathering celebrated Sheila Isham's impressive new show at Jefferson Place Gallery.

And it drew the Corcoran Gallery's new director, James Harithas, and Sam Gilliam whom Harithas called the finest Negro painter in America.

Sam's only concession to the frequently hippie aspects of the art world was his long colorful handmade tie that extended from the knot at his collar to his trousers and back up again to be tucked into and hanging from his shirt pocket.

It's apparently a new wrinkle, and if it takes the place of long droopy hair on men, it will mark a new milestone in civilization's progress.

Among the young supper guests sipping, supping and scintillating in the drawing room, the study, the garden and the downstairs dining room were Princess Francisco

Borghese of the Roman

name to the famed Borghese Gardens. The tall, beautiful girl, who has been visiting in this country, was a guest at the Italian embassy but was catching a train back to New York that night.

ITALIAN AMBASSADOR and Mrs. Ortona also were there, the ambassador reporting that a story in a Rome newspaper proved Chinese Communists' influence in the recent Italian riots.

Avis Bohlen, daughter of Ambassador and Mrs. C. G. Bohlen, told the Smithsonian's Willie Warner that she is writing a book about Peter the Great, and will return to Paris in a couple of weeks to continue the work. Her father having served as ambassador to both Russia and France, Avis speaks both languages fluently, which is an obvious asset in the research.

Both the Warners and the Fitzhugh Greens were sunbanned from sailing in their respective boats to the Eastern Shore. The Warners were signing up Mario Valmarco (who recently wrote a book about architecture) and his wife as crew members for the next sail.

The Edward Morgans were there, Wendy in a beautiful red encrusted white dress, opaque white stockings and white patent shoes.

The evening ended with some dancing to rock beat in the dining room where Sheila in a mini skirt and Sam Gilliam and other social and artistic types let their hair

"THE EVENING STAR"

WASH. D. C.

FRI. JUNE 14, 1968

SECT. B-3

SOCIETY - HOME, COL 1, 2, 3

173-135-506 D-31

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 17 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
Proffman DEC	
Adler 1899	

Sirhan Pleads Not Guilty, Trial Is Set for Nov. 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan pleaded not guilty today to a charge he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. His trial was set for Nov. 1.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant said only 10 words during a 22-minute hearing in denying his guilt and approving a trial date later than guaranteed by his constitutional right for a "speedy trial" within 60 days after arraignment.

Sirhan also pleaded not guilty

to five counts of assault with intent to commit murder. Five bystanders were shot June 5 when Kennedy was fatally wounded after winning the California Democratic presidential primary. They have recovered.

Two previous hearings for plea were continued pending psychiatric examination by two defense experts.

Sirhan wore an open-necked, button-down light blue shirt and dark slacks for his appearance today in a heavily guarded courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice. His mother and three brothers, Adel, Sharif and Saidallah, were in the small spectator section.

His attorney, Russell E. Parsons, asked for a trial date no sooner than Nov. 1, saying an attorney who will assist him is involved in another case.

Superior Court Judge Richard A. Schauer said he will name a trial judge Oct. 4.

Sirhan then was returned to his cell, only steps from the courtroom.

Earlier, the judge refused a request from Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger to modify an order sharply restricting public statements about the case by public officials, attorney and witness.

Younger argued that "where it is possible, we believe that people should know as much as possible about what their government is doing."

DATE 8-2-68

PAGE A-1

☐ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☒ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

Sub D

173-135132

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 6 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Cogutan

Innocence Plea Filed By Sirhan

By Ron Einstoss
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 2—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan pleaded not guilty today to murder in the June 5 slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

A trial date of Nov. 1 was set by Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

Although Sirhan entered a plea of innocence, it does not necessarily mean he is denying his guilt.

He is charged with murder, with malice aforethought.

A guilty plea would have been an admission of first-degree murder—a wilful, deliberate and premeditated killing, with malice aforethought—which carries the death penalty or life in prison.

The only way for a defendant to have a determination made of the degree of murder—unless he specifically is charged with second-degree or manslaughter—is to be tried, either by a jury or a judge sitting without a jury.

This apparently is what Sirhan, in the face of seemingly weighty eyewitness and circumstantial evidence against him, did.

At a news conference that followed the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant's appearance in court, Russell E. Parsons, Sirhan's attorney, seemed to confirm this when he said:

"I haven't seen any evidence yet that he (Sirhan) had any malice . . ."

Parsons also said a not guilty plea "permits us to show the what and why—what

See SIRHAN, A4, Col. 3

DATE 8-3-68

PAGE A 1

☒ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

☐ THE EVENING STAR

☐ THE SUNDAY STAR

☐ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

☐ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135-Sub P-33

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 8 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan J. G.

Sirhan Trial Set; Attorney Retains Defense Option

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 3 (UPI) — The man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy before two dozen witnesses has followed a time tested rule of criminal defense — never plead guilty.

Cool and occasionally smiling during a 22-minute court appearance yesterday, Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24, said "not guilty" in a clear firm voice to answer the charge of fatally shooting the brother of the late President.

Superior Court Judge Richard B. Schauer set the Jordanian's trial for Nov. 1.

Sirhan's attorney, Russell B. Parsons, did not have his client enter a plea of "not guilty by reason of insanity" as many had expected. However, the attorney kept open his option to offer such a plea at a later time.

STRATEGY

After the hearing, Mr. Parsons indicated he will try to show the former race track exercise boy was not guilty of premeditation or malice in shooting the New York senator the night of his victory in the California presidential primary.

"This defense will permit us to show the what and why of the case," the attorney said. "Those are the real issues. If this is the man, did he do it? What prompted him? Why did he do it? Is he responsible?"

California law defines first degree murder — which carries the death penalty — as murder committed "with malice aforethought." If Mr. Parsons can show the crime was not premeditated, a jury might find Sirhan guilty of second degree murder, carrying a sentence of five years to life. If the attorney could prove lack of malice, it would open the door to a manslaughter conviction. The sentence for that is 1 to 5 years.

DATE 8-3-68

PAGE 5

____ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

____ THE EVENING STAR

____ THE SUNDAY STAR

✓ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASH. POST AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D-34

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 9 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Cogburn

^{A-12}
LOS ANGELES—The prosecution revealed yesterday that an investigation had produced no evidence of a conspiracy or any suspect other than Sirhan B. Sirhan in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Deputy District Attorney Lynn Compton, appearing at a hearing, which set a new date of Dec. 9 for beginning of Sirhan's trial, produced the transcribed testimony of 67 persons who said they saw the 24-year-old Jordanian at the Ambassador Hotel the night of June 4-5, when Kennedy was fatally wounded.

The testimony of 15 other persons, who said they saw Sirhan practicing at a target-shooting range on June 4, was also presented and made available to Sirhan's attorney, Russell B. Parsons, to prepare the defense.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker announced at the hearing that he intended to ~~take~~ ^{take} up the jury every night of the trial once it is sworn.

Washington Post
10/15/68
A12

173-135-SubD-35

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 16 1968	
FBI — WASH. F. O.	
COGHLAN	

Sirhan Search Held Legal

By Gene Handsaker

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 10 (AP)—A judge today denied a motion to suppress evidence that the defense said was seized illegally from the home of Sirhan Bishara, charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Judge Herve Walker held that police had "reasonable authority" to enter the home without a search warrant, because of Sirhan's brothers' consent.

Sirhan, 24-year-old Syrian immigrant, faces a charge he murdered Kennedy. The Syrian was shot June 5 after winning the California presidential primary election and died later. Sirhan was arrested at the scene.

The evidence—papers, writing and other items—has been deemed important to the prosecution's case.

Brother Gave Permission

The judge noted that he was not ruling on the admissibility of the evidence, but only on whether or not it should be suppressed.

The ruling followed testimony from one of Sirhan's brothers that he told police they could search, and from Sirhan's mother that she gave no authorization.

Defense attorney Russell E. Parsons argued: "There was no reasonable cause for visiting the house. He (the brother) had no right to consent to a search of his boy's room. They would have had great difficulty obtaining a search warrant from any magistrate."

The head prosecutor countered that the search followed a conference with "the oldest male occupant, who had no objections."

The judge noted that the brother "took the key, opened the door and allowed them in . . . the motion to suppress evidence is denied."

The decision followed testimony by police and relatives of Sirhan.

Mother at Work

The mother, Mary, said she was at work at a nursing school at the time of the search and neither authorized it nor gave permission for anything to be removed. "It is my house. I am buying it," she said.

Items removed from Sirhan's room included two large notebooks, a small brown spiral notebook, a U.S. Treasury envelope with pencil writing on it, a filmstrip with three photos of Sirhan, a cardboard box with pencil writing, a damaged .22 cartridge, two physicians' business cards, two gun cleaning patches and some powder solvent.

The evidence is deemed important by both sides. Police have said the notebooks contain 18 to 20 pages of handwriting, some in Arabic, some in English. Mayor Samuel W. Grady said after the evidence was taken that Sirhan apparently wrote "a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Sen. Kennedy before June 5, 1968."

At the time of the search Sirhan was in custody but had not identified himself to authorities who were questioning him.

The Washington Post
Page - A7
Date 10/23/68

177-135-Sub D-36

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 23 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
C. C. STEPHENSON	

Sirhan Trial Closed-TV Plan Studied

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A television camera hidden in a fake air conditioning unit may transmit proceedings of the Sirhan B. Sirhan murder trial via closed circuit to reporters in another room.

Superior Court Judge Herbert F. Walker, who will preside at the trial of the man charged with assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, said yesterday he will hold a hearing probably next week, to see if there are any objections to the hookup, planned because of limited seating space in the courtroom.

Walker said postponement of Sirhan's trial until after the first of the year also will be considered at the hearing. The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant was scheduled to go on trial Dec. 9.

If arrangements for closed circuit coverage can be worked out, it would mark the first time in California that court proceedings have been televised.

The judge said "well over 100" reporters sought credentials to cover the trial, and only 35 of 75 seats in the courtroom picked for the trial are available to news media.

C-3

11-19-68

A-3

173-135-5065-37

et 14

Coghlan BAC

Grant Cooper, the attorney who twice got a hung jury in the famous Finch-Tregoff murder trials in California in 1961, has taken over the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan, held in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

DATE 12-3-68

PAGE 3

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

___ THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

☒ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON POST AND AMERICAN

173-135-506D-35

14- 14
COGHEAN GRC

Sirhan Attorney Admits Telling Lie

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 (UPI)—A lawyer scheduled to defend Sirhan B. Sirhan on a charge of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy admitted to a Federal grand jury Friday that he lied in court in another case.

Attorney Grant B. Cooper, a member of Sirhan's three-man defense team, spent three hours before a grand jury inquiring into certain aspects of the recent friars Club card cheating trail in which Cooper represented one of the defendants.

The grand jury is studying reports that Cooper obtained access to transcripts of secret grand jury hearings that preceded the Friars Club trial. The transcripts had not been made public, and were not supposed to be available to defense attorneys.

The matter came to light when a transcript of testimony given the grand jury by come-

dian Phil Silvers was found on a counsel table near Cooper in July during the Friars Club trial.

In conferences with U.S. District Court Judge William P. Gray at the time Cooper reportedly told the trial judge he found the Silvers transcript on a table in the court room.

"I didn't tell the truth," Cooper said Friday, "because it would have pointed a finger at my client."

Cooper declined to reveal where he got the transcripts, pleading the privacy of the lawyer-client relationship. He will appear in court again Monday on the issue.

DATE 1-5-69

PAGE 16

✓ THE NEW YORK POST

& THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE NEW YORK JOURNAL

THE NEW YORK HERALD

THE NEW YORK SUN

WASHINGTON POST

173-135-SUB-D-39

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 5 1969	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
COGHLIN	OC

Sirhan Defense Hinges On His Mental Capacity

By Ralph Dighton
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan goes to trial Tuesday on a charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy—and a quirk in California law could save him from the gas chamber if he is found guilty.

The quirk is a hair-splitting technicality, reinforced by several decisions since 1949 but little known outside California, which recognizes a person may be legally sane yet still not fully responsible for his actions.

A number of legal and psychiatric authorities believe the 24-year-old Jordanian's counsel might use a defense known as "diminished responsibility" to seek a verdict short of first-degree murder and a lesser penalty than death.

Presentation of evidence by both sides is expected to take two months or longer. There are indications that more than 200 witnesses will be called.

Some are expected to say that Sirhan waited in a kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel early last June 5 as Kennedy announced to a gathering of his supporters that he had won the California Democratic presidential primary.

Then, the prosecution will attempt to show, Sirhan began blazing away with a small-caliber pistol as Kennedy and others passed by.

Kennedy and five bystanders were wounded. The Senator died later in a hospital.

The setting of the trial is

See SIRHAN, A6, Col. 3

DATE 1-5-69

PAGE A-1

✓ THE NEW YORK POST
& THE NEW YORK JOURNAL

THE BUREAU OF NEWS

THE NEW YORK JOURNAL

THE NEW YORK JOURNAL

WASHINGTON POST AMERICAN

173-135-Sub D-40

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
DOUGHLAN	

Sirhan Defense Tied to Mental State

SIRHAN, From A1

Superior Court Department 107, an eighth-floor courtroom in the gray stone Hall of Justice.

Quarter-inch steel plates have been placed inside the courtroom's four windows—a precaution taken also for pre-trial hearings on the 13th floor, where Sirhan is held under heavy guard.

Occupying the courtroom's 75 spectator seats will be a hand-picked squad of sheriff's officers, witness and newsmen. Although 114 reporters have been given credentials to cover the trial, there will be space in the courtroom for only 37. The others will observe by closed circuit television in a room four floors below.

Also seated in the courtroom will be Sirhan's mother, Mary, and brothers Adel, 29, and Munir, 21, of suburban Pasadena.

The cast charged with seeking justice for Sirhan will include:

- The presiding jurist, Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, 69, a bushy-browed dean of the Los Angeles criminal bench.

- The three prosecutors, led by Lynn "Buck" Compton, 46, pipe-puffing, one-time UCLA football player who won a Silver Star medal when he jumped into France with the 101st Airborne Division, at Normandy. He is the county's chief deputy district attorney.

- Three for the defense, led by Russell B. Parsons,



SIRHAN B. SIRHAN
... trial opens Tuesday

69, wispy, bespectacled lawyer who has tried 5000 cases in nearly 50 years' practice. Parsons is proudest of his role in the 1954 Charles Cahan case, in which the California Supreme Court ruled that evidence illegally obtained cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

The likelihood that Sirhan's attorneys may use the "diminished responsibility" defense arises from the fact that the position has several times won a reduced sentence or even acquittal. In most states, a defendant must be found either sane or insane; in California, he can be held partially insane.

Interviews with lawyers and psychiatrists show these avenues are open for Sirhan:

- The defense may offer

evidence that the act was not premeditated, which would make it second-degree murder punishable by five years to life in prison.

- The defense may try to prove that Sirhan's mental capacity was diminished to a point where he was not capable of malice. This would be manslaughter, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Diminished responsibility has been claimed in several cases when the defense could not establish legal insanity but could show the person was influenced by rage, fear, obsession, drugs or even alcohol.

Sirhan pleaded not guilty last Aug. 2.

Legal authorities pointed out that the plea of innocence did not necessarily mean Sirhan was denying he killed Kennedy. Since he is charged with murder with malice aforethought, the "not guilty" plea could have meant simply that he was denying malice.

Parsons, at a news conference following the plea, said:

"I haven't seen any evidence yet that he had any malice."

He also said the not guilty plea "permits us to show the what and why—what are the real issues—if he is the man, why did he do it?"

Parsons himself thus seemed to set the stage for a diminished-capacity defense—which need not be declared prior to the trial.

Paul Caruso, a Los Angeles defense attorney not involved in the Sirhan case, says: "The basic question is not whether Sirhan killed, but if he did, why did he do it? It could be that he wasn't killing a man, but killing a symbol. Kennedy had urged military aid for Israel, a country Sirhan hated. Is it murder to kill a symbol? To me, this betrays an obsession which could diminish his mental capacity."

Caruso, in an interview, cited a 1964 case in which a young woman took a pill to help her with a problem.

women. The brother-in-law moved on her menacingly and she fired five quick shots, wounding him severely. The man recovered. The woman was placed on probation.

"The defense showed that she was in a state of diminished capacity through terror," Caruso said, "because she kept on firing when it was no longer necessary. You will recall that Sirhan is accused of doing much the same thing. Sen. Kennedy was struck by three bullets, and five other persons were wounded."

"The more bizarre the case, the more unreasonable the act, the better are the chances of a diminished capacity defense."

Dr. Seymour Pollock of the University of Southern California has been retained by the prosecution to observe Sirhan, but any conclusions he may have reached have not been disclosed.

The concept of diminished responsibility has been developing in California law since 1949, when the State Supreme Court ruled a trial judge erred in barring psychiatric testimony even though the defendant did not plead insanity.

Since then, testimony by psychiatrists has been a major factor in reducing the verdict in several cases.

Dr. John M. Suarez, assistant professor of psychiatry at UCLA, said in an interview that the defense of diminished capacity has developed because California courts "became dissatisfied with the inflexibility of the rule followed in most states—that a person is either sane or insane, with no shades or gray in between."

He said he is not fully in agreement with the practice, however, because the psychiatrist is frequently

DATE _____

PAGE _____

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE WASHINGTON STAR

THE OREGON JOURNAL

THE WASHINGTON EVENING NEWS

WASHINGTON POST AMERICAN

Courthouse Security Mobilized

Sirhan 'Ready' for Trial

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 6 (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan was described today as being in an eager but "realistic mood" on the eve of his trial in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The tightest security in the history of American courts was being marshalled for the trial on the eighth floor of the Los Angeles County Hall of Justice, not only to protect Sirhan but also the judge, jury, lawyers and witnesses.

Sirhan will be escorted daily inside the building under heavy guard in an elevator from his 14th floor cell and thru a steel-plated corridor to the courtroom.

A defense lawyer who saw Sirhan during the weekend was asked what the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant thought of his chances in the face of the overwhelming eyewitness evidence upon which the prosecution is basing a charge of first-degree murder carrying a maximum penalty of death in the California gas chamber.

"We have been realistic with him all along and he is in a realistic mood," the lawyer said.

"He has been very cooperative and helpful in preparing his case and wants to get it under way. His frame of mind is about what you would expect of anyone charged with a capital crime."

LAWYER IN DUTCH

Grant B. Cooper, the chief defense lawyer, was scheduled to appear in court today for further questioning about his admission that he lied about

obtaining a grand jury transcript in another recent case.

Mr. Cooper, one of the top criminal lawyers on the West Coast and former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association, said he "didn't tell the truth" because "it would have pointed a finger at my client." His hearing was not expected to delay the Sirhan trial.

Another Sirhan lawyer, Emile Zola Berman of New York, has said candidly that the principal objective of the defense is to save Sirhan from execution.

JURY SEQUESTERED

Once the jury is selected, its members will be locked up nightly in a hotel during the expected three months of trial.

The proceedings will be televised from a camera in an air conditioning unit in the rear of the court and sent by closed circuit to a screen in an auxiliary courtroom on the fourth floor set aside for the more than 100 members of the press who could not be accommodated in the trial room itself.

C
DATE 1-6-69

7

173-135-Sub B-41

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

FBI--WASH. F. O.

COGHLIN-PCC

Around the Nation

Sirhan's Trial Begins Today in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—Sirhan B. Sirhan, the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, goes on trial today in an armored courtroom.

One of his attorneys, Emile Zola Berman of New York, said the main objective is "to save his life."

A first-degree murder conviction could bring the death penalty to Sirhan. He is being tried before Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, who pronounced the death penalty 21 years ago for Caryl Chessman, the rapist who died in the gas chamber in 1960.

1/7/69

A-7

Wash Post

173-135-Sub D-42

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 7 1969	
FBI — WASH. F. O.	

CAGLIARI JRC

'A Tightly Coiled Wraith of a Man'

By RICHARD STARNES

Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 8 — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is a too-tightly coiled wraith of a man whose prison pallor is almost luminous in its intensity.

Mr. Sirhan, in court here yesterday for the opening of his trial for murder, fidgeted and twitched his way thru a brief session in Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's courtroom, alternately brooding over what promises to be a marathon skein of legalisms and darting brief, shy smiles at his mother and younger brother.

A slight figure at best (he once aspired to be a jockey) Mr. Sirhan looked waxen and emaciated after his seven months of close confinement in a windowless cell on the 13th floor of the huge Hall of Justice Building. For the 216 days since the slaying of Sen. Kennedy last June 5, Mr. Sirhan's world has been an austere, suicide-proof cubicle that measures six by eight feet.

Mr. Sirhan, 24, whose swarthy coloring testifies to his Arab ancestry, seemed to take interest in the proceedings in Judge Walker's court only once when judge and counsel casually alluded to the death penalty in discussing a point of law. At that point Mr. Sirhan's dark, troubled eyes seemed to retreat further into their cavernous sockets, as if only now had the man fully understood how desperate a situation he was in.

FAMILY PRESENT

The defendant's mother, Mary, a plump, careworn dumpling of a woman, and his brother, Munir, 21, sat in the last row of seats in the courtroom, watching the brief opening session closely and talking together quietly in their native Jordanian dialect.

Whatever befalls the accused assassin as the result of his trial, he seems as safe from the possibility of counterassassination as human ingenuity can render him. Security precautions taken by the Los Angeles sheriff's department are unprecedented in their thoroughness. Holders of the 40-odd pined press seats in Judge Walker's courtroom are subjected to a frisking more thorough than any can remember experiencing. Even the shake-down given reporters at the trial of Adolph Eichmann in Jerusalem eight years ago was much less thorough.

In an antechamber outside the heavily guarded 13th-floor courtroom where Mr. Sirhan is on

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.)



Sirhan Bishara Sirhan

—UPI Photo

PAGE

1-8-69

C

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON AMERICAN

173-135-5060-44

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
Coghlan	

DEFENSE MAKES MOVES

A Pale Sirhan Faces the Court

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.)

trial for his life, reporters must first empty their pockets and then submit to a thorough frisking. Even the soles of one's shoes are examined. Finally, another deputy examines the reporter's person with an electronic device that emits a faintly hysterical beeping whenever its invisible rays encounter metal such as belt buckles or the nails in shoe heels.

Even reporters assigned to an overflow auxiliary courtroom viewing the trial by closed-circuit television are subject to a somewhat less rigorous search, altho their post is four floors below Judge Walker's courtroom.

After all these security precautions, anything short of an escape attempt would have seemed an anticlimax, and that's just what the opening session turned out to be.

HEARS MOTIONS

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper opened the trial by asking permission to argue a motion in Judge Walker's chambers. To argue it in open court, he said, would "complicate things." The three defense lawyers and the three prosecutors spent nearly an hour in chambers, and when the open session resumed Mr. Cooper offered three more motions. One, a technical motion to set aside Mr. Sirhan's plea of not guilty so that a motion could be offered to quash the indictment, will be argued at today's afternoon session.

Judge Walker, who has formidably bushy eyebrows and whose attitude seems to be one of benign firmness, ruled against Mr. Cooper's plea that two separate juries hear the two parts of Mr. Sirhan's trial required under the peculiar California law where a second proceeding is held to fix punishment if a guilty verdict is returned. Judge Walker, while ruling against the motion, said Mr. Cooper could resubmit it after the jury has determined Mr. Sirhan's innocence or guilt.

Observers expect Mr. Sirhan to be found guilty of some degree of murder. He was wrestled to the floor and a pistol taken from him seconds after Sen. Kennedy was mortally wounded. The shooting took place at the Ambassador Hotel here in the early-morning hours just after Sen. Kennedy had narrowly defeated Sen. Eugene McCarthy in the California Democratic presidential primary. Five others who were wounded have recovered and all are expected to testify against Mr. Sirhan.

If Mr. Sirhan is found guilty of first degree murder, and if the jury so decrees, the Jordanian immigrant may be put to death in California's gas chamber.

C
DATE 1-8-69

PAGE 2

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

X THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

178-181-203

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 8 1969	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Coghlan GC



—UPI Photo—
Mrs. Mary Sirhan, mother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, arrives for trial with another son, Munir.

c
DATE 1-8-69

PAGE 2

— THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

— THE EVENING STAR

— THE SUNDAY STAR

☒ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

— WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

173-135

Subject of FOIPA Request

By 190-WF-174-118

Retain ⁶ 8 Years 7-20-93